DA 87
.1
.G5 A3

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NARRATIVE

OF

THE IMPRISONMENT AND ESCAPE

OF

PETER GORDON.

NARRATIVE

OF

THE IMPRISONMENT AND ESCAPE

OF

PETER GORDON,

SECOND MATE IN THE BARQUE JOSEPH, OF LIMERICK, CAPT. CONNOLLY.

COMPRISING

A JOURNAL OF THE AUTHOR'S ADVENTURES IN HIS FLIGHT THROUGH THE FRENCH TERRITORY, FROM CAMBRAI TO ROTTERDAM; AND THENCE TO THE ENGLISH COAST.

London:

PUBLISHED BY JOSIAH CONDER, 18, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1816.

The Author's Profits will be devoted to the Patriotic Fund.

DA 87
.1
G5 A3

B. M.
14 9'00

H. Bryer, Printer, Bridge street, Blackfriars, London.

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF, AND SUBSCRIBERS TO,

The Patriotic Fund,

ESTABLISHED AT LLOYD'S,

THIS NARRATIVE IS INSCRIBED BY

THEIR MUCH OBLIGED,

AND VERY GRATEFUL SERVANT,

PETER GORDON.

London, 1816.

ADVERTISEMENT.

AFTER escaping from France, my stay with my Friends previous to a separation of nearly four years, being limited to a few days, I was induced to promise to write out an account of my imprisonment and escape, supposing it would not exceed the limits of two or three sheets; but each incident then being fresh in my recollection, and occupying a considerable degree of interest in my thoughts, insensibly and unwillingly the Narrative attained its present size, before I could bring it to a conclusion.

The desire of gratifying many Friends who wish for Copies, and the prospect of benefiting the PATRIOTIC FUND, to which,

with many others, I acknowledge myself to be under great obligations, are my only inducements for publishing this journal, and thereby exposing myself to censure for the innumerable lies told on my journey: I consider my conduct in that respect as very blameable, and refer the advocates of white lies, as they are very erroneously called, to my situation on the 1st March, when being examined before the Magistrates at Helvoetsluys.

My profession and engagements will, I hope, be received as an apology for the want of propriety of expression, which I am aware is to be met with in every page.

NARRATIVE

OF THE

IMPRISONMENT AND ESCAPE

OF

PETER GORDON.

On the tenth of August 1809, I sailed from Oporto in the Barque Joseph of Limerick, commanded by Captain J. Connolly, and manned as follows:

George Hodges	Chief Mate.
Peter Gordon	Second do.
Thomas Hodges	Seamen.
James Kelly	
John Melligin	
Jem	
Ned	
Ned Giles	
Charles Buckley	Boys.
George	

Having warped over the bar, we anchored for the night in the roads, and the next morning at sun-rise, sailed in company with about 26 other

merchant vessels under convoy of a gun-brig. We had light Southerly airs for three days, in which time the whole of the convoy had got out of sight a head of us, but we had not lost sight of Oporto steeple, which can be seen at the distance of seventeen leagues: for two days, we had sight of the aqueduct at Villa de Conde also, which is said to be built on 999 arches and to extend seven miles.

Sunday, 20th. We were chased for some time by a large frigate under French colours, which gave us very little concern; on sending her boat on board we found it was La Virgine. Captain Toby having detained us about an hour whilst he wrote some letters, we made sail again with a brisk gale at the Westward.

Monday, about midnight, made Scilly Light-house.

Tuesday, at 2 p. m. the Lizard bore North.

Wednesday, at sun-set the Needles point just in sight from the deck, spoke a Cowes boat, who told us there were no privateers out, and that the Oporto fleet had not yet passed up channel.—I now got ready to jump into the first boat we should fall in with on the morrow,

as I was to go ashore before coming to the Downs, in order to keep clear of the press.

Thursday, at day-break, no land in sight; hauled up more to the Northward: about 8 a. m. made the land about Beachy Head, and saw two vessels in shore of us. About 9 a. m. were boarded by a boat belonging to His Majesty's Brig Defender, which impressed James Kelly, but on Captain Connolly's going on board and making the Lieutenant a present of a dozen of wine, he was returned, "as being too young for the service." He was only 28, but very stout.

I was anxiously looking out for a fishing boat, and saw several from the mast-head, between us and Brighton, but of too great a distance to be of any use. At noon we were standing in towards Beachy Head, which bore from us E. N. E. distant 4 or 5 leagues, with strong breezes from W. S. W;—a sail in sight on the larboard-bow, and His Majesty's Brig Defender hull down to the West. At 1 p. m. made the sail out to be a lugger standing to the Southward under her fore and mizen luggs:—she crossed our hawse about 4 miles a head of us, and shewed English colours: we strongly suspected it was a Frenchman, particularly when we saw that some of the people wore

red jackets and shirts, but as she continued standing to the Southward, hoped it might be one of the hired luggers, with troops for Guernsey; when, being about 2 miles to leeward of her, she tacked, and after standing to the Northward a few minutes, bore away after us, and having set her main-sail, was in a few minutes near enough for us to see they all wore caps, and convinced us that it was a Frenchman. We had all sail set, and were running dead in for Beachy Head, intending to bump her on shore, but the lugger sailing too fast for us, was under our stern in a very short time, dowsed her English colours, up French, and let fly a volley of musketry amongst our rigging. We had two six-pounders on board, but no ammunition, therefore, struck the British flag, without either firing a shot or striking a blow; excepting those we struck at our own tiller, which we endeavoured to cut away, but before it could be effected, their boat was along side with eight hands to take possession, and they ordered six of us to return with the boat on board of the Privateer. They behaved themselves quite civilly, but when they had been on board some minutes, and we had not yet obeyed their order, they began to flourish their dirks about, and to insist on our going into the boat at once.—One of them laid hold of me, but I told him I had no clothes

with me, and promised that if he would let me remain on board, I would get the boat manned directly. I got the boys and some others, whom I did not wish to have with me, to go into the boat with the Captain and the Mate, who were particularly ordered away, and then went aloft with the end of the maintopsail halyards which we had cut. When the boat shoved off, I came down with the halyards, rove so foul, that it gave them much more trouble than if I had not touched it; when they had hove the topsail halyards fore and aft, we assisted them in hoisting the sails up, and bringing the ship to the wind on the starboard tack; when they came to brace up the fore yard, they could not move it: we all clapped on, but to no purpose: after sending a hand on the yard to see what was foul, we clapped on again, but without any effect; but after swigging and hauling for upwards of twenty minutes, one of them went up in the main rigging, to see if the brace was jammed in the block, and found a seizing with which we had stopped both parts of the brace together: whilst they were coming on board; having cast it off, the sails were soon trimmed, and we stood away for Dieppe on a S. by W. course, carrying top gallant sails to a fresh Westerly gale, which at another time would have brought us to reefed topsails. As I knew the main mast,

and fore topmast to be bad sticks, I expected every minute to see one or both walk over the side, but, notwithstanding their wounds and sore places, they bent to it like whale-bone. The lugger kept close on our quarter, and frequently hailed us. The privateersmen took away our knives, and permitted three, out of the five of us who were on board, to come on deck at a time. Directly the ship was on her course, they asked for some of the best wine on board. I pointed to a quarter cask for Admiral Stanhope, and told them it was the best: they immediately stove the head in, and after drinking the Admiral's health, mixed some in a kettle with water, lemon, and sugar, which they said was their usual drink on board privateers.—I was in hopes they would have got drunk, but soon found that they were so much accustomed to wine, that they would not drink too much of it; but for the purpose of making them thirsty, I took care to supply them well with sweetmeats of all kinds. The prize-master was a native of Amsterdam, about 45 years old: four of the men were Flemings, two were Danes, and the other was a Frenchman, which was one of the worst things that could have happened to him, as he was driven about by all the others, to shew us how little they liked the French: they frequently declared they would much rather be employed on board of

merchant vessels of any nation than in French privateers, if it was in their power to get away from France.

We were quite sociable with them, and assisted in doing any thing about the ship as usual, to let them see that we were quite easy about being captured, and imputed it only to "la fortune de la guerre"—"you to-day, me to-morrow;" which was the consolation they administered to us very freely.

In the course of the afternoon, I took a small box of about 80lbs. weight from amongst seven others of silver, which were under the captain's berth, and placed it under my pillow, intending to open it in the night, and distribute it amongst the ship's company. An hour or two after I had removed it, two of the privateersmen, who were rummaging my cabin, broke it open, and when they found it contained bars of silver, having given a bar to me, and another to Tom, who was in the cabin at the time, restored it to the place in which they had discovered it, and told us, in case the silver was discovered on us, not to say who gave it us, for if we did, they would deny knowing any thing of it, and their words would be believed sooner than ours. We promised that we would not betray them, and ac-

knowledged the obligation we were under for their present.

About sun-set we mustered all sorts of eatables that were in the ship for our supper, besides tea, coffee, chocolate, wine, negus, &c. to drink, and were very merry. I was glad to find that we had secured their confidence, and that they had no suspicion of our making any endeavour to recover the ship. I heard the prizemaster say to his people, "there is no danger, for the mate is a very good man:" and when I asked him about our usage in prison, and how long we should be left on board after arriving in France, he told me that as long as he continued by the ship, I should remain with him; which made me suppose that if we were not fortunate enough to be able to retake the vessel, or to escape with the boat, before our arrival in port, by continuing on board the ship until she was unloaded, I should either make my escape, or get permission to enter on board of some neutral merchant vessel. Before supper was over, Melligin was quite drunk, and kept aggravating some of the lugger's people, by insisting that the provision, as well as wages, was much better on board of English than on board of Danish or any other vessels, together with other nonsense of the same kind; seeing that they were be-

ginning to get angry, I asked the prizemaster to order him to bed, as he was drunk, and would be quarrelling; he sent him below immediately, and said that the rest of us might continue on deck as long as we pleased, and go up and down at pleasure. As it grew dark, the wind came light, with mizzling rain, and the prizemaster ordered the three men who were at the helm, to keep their arms at hand, and the other four to patrole the deck with cutlasses in their hands. About midnight, it being nearly calm, with heavy rain, the lugger, which still continued close on our quarter, took us in tow, all hands of them working at the sweeps with all their might.

Friday. About 1 a. m. the Captain of the lugger came on board, and Captain Connolly with him; whilst they remained, which was but for a few minutes, I lay quiet in my berth for fear of being ordered on board the lugger, if I was seen. Between three and four o'clock they came to anchor close to the French coast, waiting for day-break, to see whereabouts they were: the Captain of the lugger returned again on board of us, with Captain C. whom he left in the cabin alone, to shift himself. I now made my appearance, and gave him four or five of the bars, which he did not keep about him, but

put them into his chest. The French captain came down to hurry him away, and on seeing some silver spoons in another of his trunks, put them into his pocket, saying with a great deal of politeness, " Captain, I no take them, I pay you when we go shore."

At day-light, blowing fresh with hard squalls from the S.W. we discovered an English gun-brig, in the offing, working to windward, as though she intended to cut us out: the lugger's boat was immediately sent on shore, our jolly boat was lowered down and sent on board of the lugger, from whence it soon returned with twelve or fifteen more men, who hauled our courses up, and payed out both cables to their bare ends, which they kept ready for slipping. They then ordered us all to go into the steerage, which after many endeavours to avoid, I was at length obliged to comply with: the hatch was laid over, and we were in total darkness, lying, or sitting, according as we had room, on the top of the wine pipes, which came within two or three feet of the deck; and we expected every minute that this would be crushed in on us, either one side or the other, by the falling of the main mast, for we thought we heard them cutting it away. The cables were now slipped, and the ship was thumping very hard:

the noise made by rowsing a gun across the duck, directly over our heads, with the huzzaing and confusion which prevailed, and the whizzing of shot; together with the state of uncertainty we were in, expecting our liberty to be decided by an action, which we could neither assist at, nor even be witnesses of,—formed a dismal combination, which could only be heightened by the foolish fears of some of our comrades, who expected that on the ship's bulging, we should either be drowned where we were, or murdered in attempting to get on deck; or otherwise that when the gun-brig's boats boarded us,—an event we hoped every minute would take place,—we might be mistaken for Frenchmen, and thus be killed. The others shamed them out of such foolish fears, and persuaded them to arm, in order to make a sally up the hatchway, when we should be certain of the boats being alongside; we each got an iron bolt, pump brake, or whatever we could lay our hands on, and waited with impatience until we should have the pleasure of hearing our countrymen alongside. After remaining in this state of suspence about an hour, the hatch was taken off, and we were ordered up; being suspicious at first that they intended sending us ashore to prevent our being retaken with the ship, we thought of creeping into the re-

motest parts of the hold, and remaining there until she was abandoned, but they called to us again, and told us that, as it was over, we might come up and that they wanted us to shew them the top gallant clew-lines. We now had the disappointment of finding that the gun-brig, after standing in, and firing a few shots, the second of which carried away a large splinter of the lugger's foremast, had put about and stood off to sea again: she was now eight or nine miles distant.

A party of soldiers with some flying artillery had arrived from Dieppe, which was about eight miles to the Eastward of us, and occupied the cliff, about 250 feet in height, directly over the vessel. During the short time we had been below, they had quite transformed the vessel by cutting away several stantions, ripping off the quarter boards, and casting all our spars loose, which, with the sails blowing about, made her look like a perfect wreck. On going into the cabin, I found every thing there in the same state of confusion as prevailed on deck. The Captain's trunks were broken open, and the bars of silver which he had put into them, were gone: this loss, however, did not give us much concern, as we had stowed away all that had been in the case, in different parts of the ship.

The Captain of the lugger now came on board, with a man to pilot the ship to Dieppe, from which place we were about 8 miles to windward, the wind being at S. W. which is right along-shore. Instead of warping or towing her off, they first boxed her head off, then slewed her stern round, and after giving her about a dozen of these twists, her rudder came off, as might naturally be expected; they directly cried out, "that the ship was totally disabled, and that they should never be able to get her into port." Great confusion now ensued among the Frenchmen: some of them began to put on whatever clothes they could lay their hands on, underneath their own, to prevent their being found out; for the French laws are very strict in forbidding prisoners of war being plundered of their clothes, watch, or cash, to whatever sum it may amount. I now took an opportunity of slipping over my shoulders two bars of silver, which I had previously slung for the purpose, and I put on my watch coat to prevent them from being perceived. I had just accomplished this, when one of the privateersmen came and told me, I must go into the boat directly with his Captain: this was quite unexpected. I refused to go, saying "it could not be me:" he went up, and the prize-master came down, and said the Captain was waiting. I reminded him of his

promise, that I should remain on board as long as he did. He then went up to obtain permission for me to remain on board, but it was refused. I then told him that I must get some clothes, as I was in the same rig as when we were boarded: he ran up a second time, but not succeeding, came back angry. During this time I had scrambled together a few clothes out of my trunk as they came to hand, but my good friend the prize-master, said, "I should not take any thing with me." I then hove them down, and felt for my French dictionary, but not being able to lay hold of it, I put down the other books which I had taken up, and retired in disgust from the Joseph's cabin.

Directly my head was above the companion, the French Captain laid hold of me and began rifling my pockets; I had nothing in them, except my handkerchief and some chocolate, both which things he took away and gave to one of his people: my purse and watch, which were together in my watch-pocket, he did not discover: he examined the collar and skirt of my great coat, and then putting his hand into the breast of my waistcoat, laid hold of a bar of silver. I gave him the other from the opposite side very coolly, expecting to have a laugh at my disappointment, instead of which, he saluted me with

a blow or two in the face, and a kick of the breech, calling me at the same time a thief, which I thought came very gracefully from a fellow who was in the very act of robbing me of every thing, except a few rags on my back:—the same salute was repeated from all sides as I went to the gangway. Whilst I stood in the main chains waiting for the boat to sheer to, I felt for the first time that I was a prisoner. Until then, I scarcely thought it possible that they would be able to carry me to France; but now all my plans for getting away from them appeared to be useless.

You thief! you cursed thief! was now ringing in my ears from all around. To express how I felt, is out of my power. I endeavoured to say, *I* am not a thief; but found that if I attempted it, the tear which was already in my eye, would have burst forth. I was half mad and ready to burst at being treated like a thief, without being able to vindicate myself, or to have a blow at them for it.

The Captain thinking that I was not inclined to go into the boat, came and gave me another blow or two, wishing to make me jump for the boat, which was at the distance of several fathoms from the ship. I resisted him until

she came quite close, and then jumped in quite out of humour. Tom and Melligin were in the boat with four of the Frenchmen: we told each other in what manner we had been treated during the last half hour; their bags had been searched, and many things taken away, their new hats had been taken off their heads, and they were scarcely allowed to have their old ones. We were getting quite cheerful again, when the Captain came down and seated himself in the stern of the boat between Tom and myself: we now shoved off for the lugger, which was about a quarter of a mile distant. I began humming or whistling to myself, on which my old friend gave me two or three blows on my face accompanied with curses; looking at me again, and seeing that I laughed at it, he repeated the compliment.

This treatment, together with the situation in which we now were, having been plundered of every thing, made us willing to attempt any plan of escape which held out the slightest hopes of success. How willingly would we have given the Captain and his men an opportunity of exhibiting their swimming abilities, and have pulled off to the gun-brig in spite of their firing, which was all they could have done to annoy us, as there was no other

boat in sight : and this it would have been easy to do, but that the weather would not allow of it, as it was blowing very fresh with such hard squalls, that even as we then were, with four oars in a very fast boat, we could get nothing a head, but were obliged to put back to the ship:— what hopes then could we have had of being able to pull right to windward with two, or, at the most, three oars? When we got along-side the ship again, the Captain went up: the two men who had given us the bars of silver, came and nodded at me. I had observed when the others were abusing me, that they kept behind: they now obliged us by getting several trifling things for my comrades, which were at hand, but they could get nothing for me, as the Captain was in the cabin where all my things were. After remaining along-side some time, we made a second attempt, which was as fruitless as the first; the third time, however, we succeeded in reaching the lugger, where our Captain and the rest of the ship's company were, except Ned and Giles, who could not be found when we left the ship. I was introduced as a thief, and was the cause of much altercation between the French Captain and Captain Connolly, one persisting in my having plundered the cargo, alledging this as a reason for plundering us, in return, of our clothes, which he had before

promised should be restored to us: the other said I had not, and that it was only his French policy to get a pretence for breaking the promises he had made.

We got under way and ran down alongshore to Dieppe, a little before noon we arrived along-side the Quay, and in about a quarter of an hour, a guard of soldiers arrived to take charge of us; we were all ordered to step ashore, and I found myself actually a prisoner in France, in possession of the following wardrobe—An old blue jacket, trowsers, and waistcoat, a hat, a shirt, an old pair of shoes, a silk handkerchief, and a pair of braces, besides my watch and two or three dollars in small money of several countries. We were searched at the custom-house for papers and for British manufactured goods; they were strongly inclined to seize a pair of cotton stockings from the mate, but as they were marked and had been washed, he was permitted to keep them.

Vigilant as the French Government is, in endeavouring to prevent the circulation of British manufactured goods, I do not believe it would countenance the depriving a prisoner of a few new clothes which might be in his possession; I rather consider it as a robbery com-

mitted by the custom-house officers, and applied to their own use.

As we were being led through the town, the people in general appeared to pity us, but more particularly the women; some were congratulating the privateersmen, others laughed at, and a few abused us. On our arrival at the Chateau, we were conducted through three gates, and on entering the court-yard, found several Englishmen there in the same situation with ourselves. Captain C. recognized one who commanded a vessel in the same convoy that we left Oporto with; he had continued in the convoy until they were off the Isle of Wight; the Commodore then went into Portsmouth, and left the merchant-ships quite unprotected; when off the Ower's light, a lugger came and took him out from amongst the others.

The number of prisoners now amounted to fifty-two, including one woman, whose husband was master of a coasting schooner. The yard was roomy enough for us; two sides of it were occupied by the Chateau, and the other two by a wall, on the top of which was a terrace, separated from the drawing-room by a folding glass door, and was the usual walk of the Commandant and his wife. When some of

our fellow-prisoners shewed me the room we had to lodge in, I thought he was joking; it was so dark, that at first I could make out nothing distinctly, but from the straw about our feet I concluded it was a stable: however, a minute or two undeceived me, for recovering my eye-sight, I perceived in one corner a poor fellow washing his only shirt; in another, a party at cards; a few singing, others sleeping, some mending their clothes, one or two pacing to and fro the room, thinking, I suppose, of a country and friends they were separated from, perhaps for ever.

The first room was about 30 feet, and appeared to have been intended for a guard-room, as it was not at all secured as a prison, the windows having no bars, and the door being but very badly fastened; the other room was a round tower about fifteen feet in diameter, with walls of flint seven feet in thickness: it was entered by passing through the former room, from which it was separated by two small strong doors, and was lighted by two loop-holes, from one of which we could just get a peep of the luggers lying in the roads.

Our allowance of provisions was one pound and a half of brown bread, a half pound of beef, with soup, and some cider; the piece

of beef which we received, was from two to three ounces, and the soup was truly meagre. We had to scramble for it, and then sip it up in the best manner we could with the points of our knives for the first day or two, until we got hold of pieces of wood to make spoons of.

Our domestic economy was such, that we used to dine on soup and bread, sup on bread and meat, and, if our purse would afford it, get a halfpenny-worth of butter to serve three or four breakfasts; if not, relish the crumb with a piece of the dirty crust.

Our mate, Tom Hodges, and myself, messed and slept together: we thought ourselves fortunate in being able to procure a small bundle of clean straw for a bed: we were well off for blankets, as my messmates had three or four good ones.

About seven o'clock we had to retire into the den, and a sentinel was placed at the door of it. Between nine and ten we spread our straw nearly in the middle of the room. I could not help laughing heartily at the care we took in tucking a blanket round it, also at the pains we took to crib a handful or two

from our neighbours, when we had an opportunity, for without these precautions, our bed would soon have been dwindled away.

Saturday. At daylight, Catharine, which was the name of our keeper, came with two soldiers to guard a couple of us down to the sea-side to empty a tub; James Kelly and another prisoner were fixed on for the task. When they returned, I asked Kelly if the soldiers kept very near them: he said that one had remained about two or three hundred yards distant, and the other did not keep very close. I then enquired if he thought there would be any chance of getting away; he said there would be a very good chance. We agreed to carry the tub out together the next morning, and if there was any boat near the beach, to swim off to it; but in case we should not be able to get a boat, he proposed that on our return, we should set the tub down at the corner of one of the streets as if to rest ourselves, and whichever of us should be farthest from the sentry was to run away: if the sentry pursued, the other was to start in a contrary direction; but if the sentry chose to remain by the one who was with the tub, he who ran would have a good start, as but few people would be stirring at so early an hour: having finally

agreed on this plan, we kept it entirely to ourselves.

At about ten o'clock we were let into the yard.

In the course of the morning, Captain Connolly gave me two guineas, and told me at the same time, that when I should be in want of more, he would supply me.

About dusk, Kelly came to me and asked me if I was determined to make a start of it on the morrow: I replied that I certainly was.

Kelly. Then why not try it at once?

P. G. With all my heart, if you can raise a scheme to fetch out.

K. Those gates, (pointing to two large gates in the body of the castle,) lead right out into the country.

P. G. I know they do, for I got a peep when they were going out to milk the cows, and there is no sentry at them, but the job is how to get them open.

K. Oh, let that alone to me.

P. G. Very well, but I think you will find it rather a tough job.

K. Never fear, for I have already done it.

P. G. You don't say so!

K. Yes. I opened it just now, and had a good look outside: the coast is quite clear.

P. G. Well. I am all ready.

My messmates now came towards us, and asked me if we should go to supper; not being willing to wait an instant, I said I thought it would be as well not to mind it at present, but on Kelly's telling me he would go and change his shirt, I went to them and said I thought it would be best to get our supper before we were locked up. I swallowed a few mouthfuls of bread, and put a crust into my pocket, which with about the eighth of a biscuit I had brought from the ship, I hoped would serve for our sea stock on a voyage across the British Channel. Kelly went past, and I soon followed him, telling my messmates that I was not for any more supper.

A number of boys were playing at blind-

man's buff between the doors of our room and the castle gate, which were not more than fifteen or twenty feet apart; we passed them without their taking any notice of us: there was a wicket in the first gate which was not kept fastened; we easily passed through it, and the first gate now concealed us, whilst we opened the outer one: this was secured by a bar of about half a ton weight, which went upon a swivel, and was locked at one end; the lock being already picked, the bar was easily removed, and on opening the gate, our hearts were gladdened by the view of a fine open country, and no dangers in sight.

As I was pulling the gate to, Kelly asked which way we should turn: I answered I did not care which; as we took a quick look on each side he said, "well, here is to the right for luck," and away he darted, I followed.

I would rather have walked deliberately along, until we should be able to conceal ourselves at the distance of about a mile from the castle, and there wait until it was quite dark, when we might go along shore to the Joseph, where it was most probable we should find a boat. Not being able to run as fast as Kelly, he waited until I came pretty near him,

and then ran along again. The direction we went in, was along the cliff, to the westward of Dieppe; close to the castle we passed some very large mortars, and a few pieces of cannon. After having run about a mile, we came to a signal house, and were obliged to pass close under the windows of it; we had scarcely passed, when a man came out, and ran hallooing after us: we took no notice of him, but kept running along close to the edge of the cliff. When pretty near another signal house, we thought we had found a gap in the cliff by which it was possible to descend to the beach; having gone down about 200 feet, we were disappointed at finding about 100 feet more, as perpendicular as the side of a house; we of course had to return up again, and by the time we had regained the top of the cliff, the soldier who pursued us, was pretty near. We continued running along the cliff as before, but being afraid to come too near the second signal house, we endeavoured to gain the beach by a second gap, but were not able to get as low by it, as we had done by the former; we then endeavoured to hide ourselves in separate parts of the cliff. In a few minutes I heard Kelly calling to me, and on going up, found the soldier had hold of him by the collar. I told him in very broken French, and as well as I

could by signs, to let go of Kelly, and as he appeared unwilling to do it, I laid hold of his arm, and threatened we would use him ill if he did not remain quiet, telling him at the same time, that it was useless to resist as there were two of us, and he was unarmed. We now set off again running directly into the country, hoping to hide ourselves; having gone a few yards from him, he followed hallooing as before. The two signal stations were now alarmed, and as we passed between them, six other soldiers joined the pursuit in such a manner as to surround us; being caught by five, and the other two closing in with us, we surrendered at discretion, not at all displeased at having made the sortie, although we expected to be confined in a dungeon for it. As we were being led towards the Chateau, they asked where we intended to have gone. I said, to England. On their abusing and calling us deserters, I asked, if they were prisoners in England, would they not endeavour to return to their wives and children, by deserting; on their replying, they would not, I said, they would then act like rascals, and not do their duty to their country. They continued to abuse us, and the man who first saw us, gave me a kick or two, saying I had been saucy to him: on this, one of those who had hold of me, gave

me several blows, and not having a sword, took out of his pocket a large knife, with which he began cutting a few capers: knowing that they dared not hurt us, I told them that we were Britons under the protection of their Emperor, as prisoners of war, and as it was our duty, we would desert whenever we could get an opportunity. They abused us to one another, whilst we laughed at them, and told them to go on as long as they pleased in French, but not to abuse us in English, as that would soon make us very angry.

When we came to the Castle, they shoved us in amongst the other prisoners, and then went to the officer of the guard to report us. Captain Connolly had just been asking my messmates where I was; after looking about and not being able to find me, they concluded I had made a slip bend, and of course said no more on the subject. When we came in, we seated ourselves amongst the others; in a few minutes, Catharine came in with a serjeant of gensd'armerie, and two or three of the soldiers who took us up, to find who it was that had been away, and to know if any others were absent. On their asking which two it was that had been away, no one would answer them; the soldiers then took a candle, and looked at our

faces, whilst Catharine took another, and looked at our feet, to see whose shoes were wet: they both fixed on me at the same instant, the soldiers remembering my face, and Catharine finding my shoes wet; the gend'armes remained by me whilst the others continued their search, but without success, as Kelly had on a very old pair of shoes, which he carried in his hands when we were running in the grass, and of course they remained quite dry. They asked who it was that had been away with me; I replied I did not know; the gend'arme gave himself no more trouble by asking me again, but took a pair of thumb-screws out of his waistcoat pocket, and was proceeding to apply them to my thumbs; but supposing that when once on, he would torture me with them until I should confess who was my partner, I determined not to let him put them on, and kept my fists fast clenched in spite of his endeavours to open them, telling him at the same time it was not English fashion, and I would have none of it. After we had struggled together some time, Kelly who was sitting next to me, jumped up and said, it was I who was with him. The gend'arme not understanding this, thought he was about to assist me, and that we intended to mutiny: he therefore ran to the door, and having called

for the guard, returned with the sentry's bayonet: he shoved me down on the guard bed on which I was sitting, and I believe was actually proceeding to run me through, when some of the prisoners held back his arm, and explained to him that Kelly owned it was himself who had deserted with me. This made him quiet, and he screwed Kelly's right thumb, and my left, together; whilst he was screwing away, I pretended to be very much hurt by it, when we were scarcely touched, but he was too old a hand in the watch to be easily deceived. Being very much irritated, he was not contented with the degree of pain we endured, until the third time he had taken out the key. By this time the whole castle was alarmed, the guard was drawn up at the door, where the Commandant, with his wife and servants, stood half frightened, not knowing what the disturbance was about.

Every thing being now quiet, we were left to ourselves, and the questions which were put to us of—Where did you get to?—How did you get out?—Why did'nt you go this way, or that way?—Why didn't you hide yourselves?—How do the screws feel?—Do they hurt much?—&c. &c. became a fresh vexation to

us, until we determined not to answer any of them.

The screws occasioned an aching pain, which did not at all incommode us at first, but the longer they remained on, the pain increased very rapidly. We had just been saying to one another, that we did not know how we should be able to support the pain all night,—as it already began to be excruciating in spite of the precaution of resting our arm on the elbow, and keeping it quite steady,—when an elderly man, who was an officer of the guard, came in to see that all was quiet for the night, and was prevailed on by the prisoners to come in and ease our screw. When he came to us, I supposed it was to remove us to some dungeon, where we should be alone, but was agreeably deceived when the old gentleman eased the screw so much, that we could take our thumbs out at pleasure. On leaving us, he locked us up in the round tower with about a dozen lousy Portuguese, who were refused a lodging among the English in the other room.

Sunday, 27th August. At day-break, we fixed our screws on again, for fear the ferocious serjeant should come in, but the officer of the guard soon came and took them entirely away.

We now had the pleasure of stripping to clear our clothes of the vermin who had taken up their abode with us during the night; this operation being finished, I had to return them to my back again, as a clean shirt was entirely out of the question.

During this day, we were not allowed to go into the yard, which made some of the prisoners grumble at Kelly and me; saying it was very hard, that on account of us two, they should be debarred the privilege of taking a little fresh air: others took our part, said we had done perfectly right, and asked whether, if those who were then grumbling, thought they could get away, but at the same time knew that those of us who were left behind would be closely confined for twelve months for it, they would not go: they could not say they would not, and were therefore, obliged to keep their grumbling to themselves.

28*th August*. This day about noon, all the Captains, that is to say, all those who could muster a long coat, were allowed to walk about the yard until dusk; but the rest of us were kept close as yesterday.

29*th*. We were allowed to have our dinner in

the yard, but after having been out about two hours, were counted back again into our den, with the exception of the Captains, who remained out until dark.

30*th.* About 8 o'clock, the Captains were let out, and the rest of us about eleven. By the success which attended the endeavours of some of the prisoners to please the Commandant and his wife, by their games of leap-frog, blind-man's buff, tumbling over head and heels, &c. &c. we were not shut up until four o'clock.

In the course of the day the Commandant desired to see the two deserters; when I was pointed out to him, he put his two thumbs together, and shook his head. When Kelly came, he said, "Ah! myn countrymans, dat is you;" mistaking him for a Dutchman, as he had very much the appearance of one.

31*st.* We were let out about the same time as yesterday, and by a continuance of the same games, were not shut up until dusk. As for my part, I was not at all in a playful humour, and rather than have joined in the games to please a Frenchman, when in his power, would have remained shut up from one month's end to another. This afternoon Giles and Ned,

who had been left on board the ship when I quitted her, arrived here: about two hours after I left the vessel, they were sent ashore, and marched to St. Valery in the West, where they were confined in the town jail, and very well used.

Giles succeeded in getting ashore a bar of silver, but before he had marched far, the hitch by which it was secured, slipped, and it fell to the ground in sight of the soldiers by whom they were guarded, who did not say any thing about it; whilst he was at the jail, he sold it to a silversmith for sixty crowns, but the next day they were sent for by the agents of the privateer, and having been questioned some time, were obliged to return fifty crowns, each being allowed to retain five. They had also in their clothes-bags, a topmast studding sail of fine duck, which I had told them to rip up, when I found there was no chance of being retaken; they offered me the making of a pair of trowsers, which it was very easy to perceive I was not a little in want of, as the only pair I had were getting very ragged.

2nd September. This morning eight men, being the crew who had been here longest were marched away to the Depôt, the name and

distance of which, we could not get certain information of.

Monday, 4*th.* A second draught of eight or ten men marched off for the Depôt.

5*th.* For the last two or three days, several of our crew had been busy in making trowsers of the studding sail; as I had not yet got mine, and I thought the cloth was expended, I supposed they had shared me out, and it did not at all please me to think that I should be forgotten by them. All this day I was reflecting very much on the great difference there was between my present situation and that with the hopes of which I was flattering myself but a few days before, as I was then hourly expecting to be amongst my friends, enjoying the greatest pleasure in my power, but now I found myself condemned to a prison, most likely for many years, with only the few old rags which I had on my back, and knew that, if I survived an imprisonment of ten or fifteen years, I should then be so incapable of any exertion, that for the remainder of my life I should be only a burden to society and to myself. I therefore determined no longer to drag on the miserable existence, which I had done during the last week, without having the satisfaction

of knowing that I had tried every possible means to regain my liberty. In consequence of this determination, I purposed to myself to watch at the window in the evening, until the sentry was either asleep or off his post, and then to pick the locks and escape by the same gate through which I passed before: in case of being discovered, I had resolved to make such a resistance, that if they brought me back alive, I should be sent away amongst strangers, which I wished for, as I should then think much less of the ragged condition I expected very soon to be in, than amongst those who knew and would *pity* me.

After dinner, I laid on our straw, anxiously waiting until night came, with the most horrid sensations I ever endured; my imagination being full of stabbing, being stabbed, tried, hung, sent to slavery, chained, marched from dungeon to dungeon, &c. &c. when I endeavoured to sleep: these unpleasant ideas were counterbalanced by thinking of what I had to expect on the other hand, which was, perhaps to spend many years of my life as a prisoner, without making any effort to gain my liberty. Sometimes my imagination would lead me on step by step, until I fancied myself safe in England; but, on recollecting my true situation, I was always

discontented with myself for not continually endeavouring to recover that which now appeared so desirable. Whilst I was lying here, one of the prisoners in passing, told me my clothes were sent up; I supposed it to be only a joke, therefore made no answer, but lay still, endeavouring not to think, as nothing pleasant would come into my mind. In a few minutes, one of our boys came running to tell me that the Captain's clothes were come up from the ship, and to come and see if any of mine were amongst them; on this I went into the yard, in the middle of which there were two large bundles of clothes, on sorting of which, I found to my great surprise, that one half at least were mine, and the remainder the Captain's. My stock was now about a dozen of shirts, a dozen pair of stockings, another blue jacket and trowsers, &c. &c. with some handkerchiefs and a long coat, the last article I was much pleased at finding, in hopes of being able to play the Captain on our jailors, and by this means, cease to be remembered as the deserter, a name which I was frequently saluted by. I also felt so great an alteration in my situation by the acquisition of these few clothes that I put my desertion off until a dark rainy night, which would greatly increase the probability of success. This evening the Captain com-

plained again to the Commandant of not having received his clothes from the ship: the Commandant renewed his promise of having them sent to him, or else of making the owners of the privateer pay him.

6th. In the course of this day, I told Kelly of my intention to be off again the first opportunity: he said he was resolved to do the same, on which we resolved to go together. At night we turned in with the others, but directly our bed-fellows were asleep, we stole to the window and watched the sentry, who quitted his post for nearly two hours, returning to it only a few minutes before the guard was relieved. At midnight we returned to our beds, the night being too fine to give us any good hopes of success, without which it would not do to set off this time, for in case of being brought back, we were certain of being treated as incorrigible deserters.

7th. Captains Connolly and Curry, with two other persons, received permission to go into the town under the care of a gend'arme for the purpose of settling for their clothes with the owners of the several privateers by which they had been taken. The only offer they made Captain Connolly, was, a few dollars for him-

self and crew, which he refused, intending to claim payment for every thing that was not restored to us Whilst in the town, they met with three persons who had lately arrived from the Depôt of Cambrai to join French privateers. They called themselves Americans, who had been Captains of English ships, and said they had no intention of joining the privateers: but on the next Monday or Tuesday, as it would be half ebb in the harbour about midnight, they had determined at that time to attempt cutting out a fishing boat, as the tide would soon hurry them past the pier-heads, and there would not be water enough for any of the armed craft to follow. The boats being large, and lugger-rigged, they were in want of more hands, and it was agreed, that Captain Connolly, Captain Curry, and myself should be of the party. We were to desert on the first or second day's march, and to go to the lodgings of these Americans, where they said we should be perfectly secure for a day or two. They said also, that it would be very easy to get away on the road, as we should be suffered to go three or four miles before the guards if we chose to walk fast, and at night we should be lodged in barns, or allowed to have a bed in the house by paying for it. They also informed them

that we were bound to Cambrai, at the distance of 120 miles, it being the receiving Depôt.

I received the piece of duck which had been promised me, and was employed in making a pair of trowsers for the march; I also sent my shoes to undergo a thorough repair, which they were much in need of, and to be well nailed, as it would not do to let them wear out: I borrowed an old pair of my messmates, until my own were mended. Kelly looked out with me as last night, but for the same reason, we could attempt nothing.

8*th*. Received notice that we were all to march away on Sunday morning, in company with some troops who were on their way to join the army of Holland, who were encamped in the neighbourhood of Walcheren. I was employed all this day in finishing my trowsers, and converting a pair of old blue trowsers into a waistcoat, with several other jobs to put my clothes in order, in which I was assisted by two or three of those who had finished their own jobs.

I now gave up all thoughts of endeavouring to get away, until we had begun our journey, being persuaded that the plan was such as gave

hopes of success, which the other could scarcely be said to do, as it was only a rash attempt for want of a better opportunity: the only argument which could be used in favour of it, was, the nearness of our present situation to the sea, and the great distance we were soon to be removed from it.

9*th*. This day we were employed in packing up our clothes for the journey; I had a large sack as full as I could cram it. In the afternoon, as two or three of us were talking to the serjeant of the guard, who had been a prisoner to the English during the American war, he told us that it was he who had had the guard last week when the two prisoners deserted, for which he underwent a trial by Court-Martial, and was sentenced to be imprisoned in chains for ten years, but on account of their being brought back so very quickly, and of his former good character, he was entirely forgiven. I did not tell him that I was one of the deserters, as it would have been only natural for him to have felt a little anger towards me, although he could not blame any one for doing the same. I was very sorry to find that we had been the occasion of so much anxiety to the poor fellow, as he must naturally have suffered a great deal until pardoned, and I thought

I should not easily have forgiven myself if I had heard of this punishment being put into execution, as it was not occasioned by any neglect of his duty. If he had been bribed, or even if it had been through carelessness on his part that we got out, I should have bestowed very little pity on him, although the thoughts of having been the occasion of a poor wretch languishing in chains for so many years, might have made me shudder. I remained out this evening with the other long-coated gentry; it being Saturday night and the last we were to spend in this place, we had an extra piece of beef for supper to keep up the old sea custom of distinguishing it from other nights, and remembering our friends. Whilst we were at supper, Catharine, who had taken an extra glass of l'eau de vie, entertained us with an account of the scenes she had been through during the Revolution, at which time she served as a trumpeter in the French army, with so much credit, that she has a passport which permits her to travel in any part of France without interruption; which is there a thing of no small consequence, as you are not allowed to go from one place to another without a passport from the magistrates, in which your route is described with great exactness, and in case of being found out of it,

you are imprisoned until you give a satisfactory account of your business. Before any person is allowed to have a bed at any inn, he is obliged to give his name, residence, &c. &c. which are sent to the police officers, before whom he must appear the next day with his passport if he remains in town. Police officers are stationed at the gates of all the towns to examine the passes of every one whom they suspect of being on a journey, both on entering and leaving the town. There is also several gens d'armes, who with the mayor have the same charge, besides keeping order in the villages where they are stationed. Under these also are, the Gardes Champêtres, and several others of the same description, but under other names: their employment is to seek in the hedges, woods, &c. for those persons who prefer lying hid to travelling in the day-time; their uniform is green, and they usually carry a fowling-piece, pistols, cutlass, and a stick, with a hook and spike about nine inches long in the end of it. They very frequently wear a blue smock frock, which is the universal dress of the peasantry, and carry a bundle slung to the stick over their shoulders to disguise themselves. I believe they are usually natives of the villages in which they are employed.

She described also in a very animated manner, how she used to vend her liquors in time of action, when she followed the camp as a sutler: directly a volley had been fired, she used to jump up with a bottle in one hand, and a glass in the other, and call out who is for brandy: the wounded, rejoiced at having the slightest attention paid them in their forlorn situation, usually gave her a handful of money; she frequently met with dead and dying officers, whose watch and money, she said, it was better for her to have, than to let them be buried in their pockets, or fall into the hands of the enemies' soldiers.

Between ten and eleven o'clock we retired to our dens.

Sunday, 10*th September*. We all arose very early this morning, to be ready for our march. Whilst we were in the yard waiting the arrival of our guards, a drunken soldier came in, and after staggering about for some time, abusing King George, pointed Kelly and myself out to the gend'arme as two deserters of whom he ought to be careful, and at the same time advised him to handcuff us; but Catharine interfered, and said he need not, as we had ever since conducted ourselves

quietly: we found he was the man who first discovered us from the signal house. He was particularly inveterate against me, calling me all the names he could think of, for about a quarter of an hour, when I was very glad to get rid of him by something else taking off his attention. I was a good deal surprised that he knew me again, as I was now pretty decently rigged, and had endeavoured to alter my appearance as much as possible, hoping not to be known by the Commandant, or any one about the prison, for fear they should have been inclined to give a similar caution.

About nine o'clock, twenty soldiers who with two gensd'armes were to be our escort, arrived, and with them a waggon for our baggage. The party consisted of thirty men and boys, and Mrs. Sever. Passing several of the wine houses, we saw a number of privateersmen sitting at them: as soon as they got sight of any at whose capture they remembered to have been present, they treated them with as much wine and grog as they would drink, and to some they gave money. We heard from them that the Capricieux, which was the lugger which captured the Joseph, was gone out on another cruise which ac-

counted for our not falling in with any of her crew. We stopped before a baker's shop, and received a three-pound loaf of brown bread a man, which was to serve for two days. Here we were joined by three fat Russian sailors, who directly placed themselves behind the waggon, which they laid hold of; we laughed at them, but before we got to the end of our journey, often followed their example.

A great number of the National Guards, who were on their way to join the army of Holland, were travelling the same road with us; they did not march in a body, but each kept his own pace, so that we did not know who were our guards, and who were not; they were all very civil. Those who understood a little English, were telling us of the late success of the Archduke Charles, and drawing comparisons between him and Buonaparte, very much to the disadvantage of the latter; they regretted the necessity they were under of leaving their homes, as it was the first campaign of most of them: many had not been drawn for soldiers above a week.

The road was much straighter, and far more level than any I had ever before travelled; as it ran nearly in the same direction with the

coast, we had a fine view of the British channel, and in the early part of the day, were tantalized with the sight of a frigate and a gun-brig running down the coast.

About one o'clock, we halted at what would pass even in England, as a very decent village ale-house: six or seven of us, who chose to have a dinner, were shewn into a bed room; the others had the two lower rooms: we had a very comfortable dinner, for which they only charged five pence a head, including a couple of glasses of brandy. After remaining here about an hour and a half, we renewed our march, and as I was in hopes of having to walk back the same road that night, I got upon the waggon, on which most of the others had taken a ride in the morning.

Our present plan was, for Captain Connolly, Captain Curry, and myself, to escape from the house at which we should be lodged for the night, as we thought it best not to attempt getting away in the day time, although we could have separated ourselves from the others without much difficulty, but would not, on account of the number of soldiers who were straggling about, and most likely, there were some gens-d'armes behind to look after them. About

six o'clock, all except the sick and old were obliged to dismount, and walk the remainder of the way. At dusk, we stopped before a public house in sight of the town of Eu, and our guards were very busy in preparing for their entry into the town, by taking their knapsacks and muskets out of the waggon, and charging themselves with them. Whilst they were thus engaged, a young man came up to where I was standing with Captains Connolly and Curry, and finding, after asking a few questions, that we were on the road to prison, he said " no Captain, you no go prison, very easy get way now." Supposing that he was endeavouring to find out if we had any intention of getting away, one of them said, " Oh yes, we must go, it is only the fortune of " war, and we shall be worse off than we are " at present, if we endeavour to escape." To this he replied, " This my country, no " good country, I go to England along you, " to night we get way, I know plenty English " Captain get way. One English Captain's " wife, childs, come from England, live my " father house at Calais." Then looking at Captain Curry, he said, " Captain, I see you to Port-a-Port." After a little discourse they found they had frequently met with each other, about six months before, in Oporto; this to-

gether with his being a sailor, gave us entire confidence in him; and Captain Connolly told him, as it was our intention to escape by the first opportunity, if he chose to accompany us, he would give him a hundred guineas, besides the vessel which we should go over in. He promised to come after us, to get permission for us to sup and sleep at his house, and to be bail for our appearing at six o'clock the next morning, before which time, he said, he hoped we should be in sight of the British coast. We were now drawn up in close order of marching, and surrounded by the soldiers: being ordered to proceed, the young Frenchman left us, promising to follow immediately. Having marched about a quarter of a mile, we were much disappointed at finding we had to enter a walled town, the gates of which, we expected, would of course be shut soon after dark. As we passed through the town, some one found that Kelly was missing: after looking around for him, finding that certainly he was away, we agreed that when they mustered us, some person should get counted twice over.

We were not at all pleased when we were obliged to halt in the Rue de la prison, before the town jail, in which we were to be quartered for the night; the appearance of it was not very prepossessing, as there were only two or

three small windows towards the street, and a sentry box directly under them. We endeavoured to persuade our guards and the jailor, that this was not a fit place for officers, and said they must permit us to put up at an inn. After a little controversy before we would enter, they pretended to believe what we told them, and promised that four or five of us should be allowed to go to an inn with a gend'armes, after we had been mustered; on this, we shouldered our baggage, and entered peaceably. After they had endeavoured to muster us about a dozen times, without being able to find how many of us there were, from the confusion we made on purpose to puzzle them, the young man who had spoken to us outside the town, came in, and being able to pronounce our names from the muster-roll more intelligibly than the jailor, he called them over. We told him that one was missing, and he assisted us in endeavouring to deceive the jailor, but in vain, for after spending nearly an hour in counting and recounting, it was at length settled that one was missing; the serjeant under whose charge we had been, now began to stamp about, and swear, like a madman.

On applying to go to an inn, we were

peremptorily refused on account of Kelly's desertion, but were told that those who chose to have beds could be accommodated with them: accordingly seven of us applied for them. We were in hopes that the apartments where we were to be lodged, would be more vulnerable than that which we saw was assigned for the lodging of the others, which was very strong, and in the middle of a yard where there was a large dog to keep watch. We were now shewn up to our apartment: the way to it was up a very narrow staircase, and through two bed rooms: directly we had entered the third, which was intended for us, the door was locked, although our hostess and her son were inside. They asked us if we would have any supper; and on our replying that we would, they left us without a candle, a lad remaining in the next room to mind that we did not break out. We now had leisure to look round, and found it was a miserable little room, with two dirty beds, and a small window well barricadoed, which looked into the street. The walls of the room were enriched with several scraps of advice in English, warning us to beware of the impositions which are daily practised in that jail, and to ask the price of every thing before we ordered it, as their charges were incredible; there were also many curses against the brutality of the

jailor, and several dismal ditties by the prisoners, who had been lodged here on their march at different times, for two or three years past, lamenting their absence from families, whom they had left entirely unprovided for. We discovered the names of those who marched before us from Dieppe : their account of the treatment in the jail agreed with the others.

Our amusement in this quarter being exhausted, we began singing out for the landlord, and gave a few kicks against the door to hasten his appearance; this alarmed the lad who was watching in the next room so much, that he joined in our cry ; the woman now came running up with our supper, although it had not been ordered a quarter of an hour. Directly she entered our room, the door was locked as before, and she stood with a tureen of soup in one hand, and a piece of beef in the other, refusing to put either down until she was in possession of *l'argent*, which she frequently demanded ; we told her we would pay willingly as soon as we had finished our suppers, but we must be treated with civility, and were not accustomed to pay for victuals before they were eaten ; all this was to no purpose ; we therefore took the soup, and were about to serve it round, but the first spoonful that was

taken up, caused it to be passed round for the opinion of the company: the result was, that as it appeared to be only warm water stirred round with a tallow candle, and some piece of bread put into it, it could not be thought fit diet for an Englishman, and it was consequently heaved out of the window. The the woman still refusing to part with the beef until she was paid for it, one of the party, angry at being placed on the footing of a thief, dashed it to the ground, and broke the dish, telling her at the same time, he would pay her for it.

We now enquired of her, where we were to sleep; she said that Captain Sever and his wife were to have one bed, and as many of the other five as could, were to get into the other, those who could not, must lie down on the floor, and that we must all pay immediately ten-pence a head, which was double what they told us before we came up stairs. Determined not to put up with such impositions, we agreed to go and sleep with the rest of the people. As we proceeded through the other rooms, we met the jailor, and the gend'armes who was attached to the prison, coming to know the cause of the disturbance; the young man who came to conduct us to his house, and still remained with us, explained it to them

when he had finished, the gend'armes began to interrogate him, enquiring who he was, where he came from, and what business he had with us; whilst the jailor conducted us to the place where the others were confined. Finding they had no light, we were about to buy a farthing candle for fourpence, but were told not to do so by those who had been put here before us, as they had already bought two at the same rate, but were not allowed to light either, as there was powder in the building.

We found that Kelly was brought back again. He said that when we stopped outside of the town, he went into the public house to get some drink, when the young man, who afterwards spoke to us, told him if he chose to remain with him, he should have a protection which he had, and that he would get him a birth on board a ship at Havre de Grace. Glad of the offer, he went into a bed room, which they shewed him, and turned into a bed; but after lying about an hour, he was obliged to come to the prison, with some persons who were sent in search for him.

We were obliged to lie down about the door in the clearest places we could find, as the

room, being small, was already pretty well filled. I laid down with one sack of clothes under the hollow of my back, and another under the back of my knees, so that I was more in the shape of a snake, than of any thing else; each one described himself to be in as bad a position, some with their head lying on their neighbours' feet, and others with the feet of their neighbour on their head, body, or legs.

11*th September*. About midnight, and again at two in the morning, our keeper looked in to see if all was safe. About four o'clock he opened the door for us, and glad enough we were to be released from this kind of rest, as we were now more fatigued than when we arrived yesterday evening. When Captain Sever, who on account of having his wife with him, retained the bed to which he had been appointed, joined us, we were extremely sorry to hear that our French friend was detained prisoner, as he was not able to give a satisfactory account of himself, and that he would have to undergo an examination before the mayor this morning. About six o'clock, we received the wished-for order to bring out our baggage, as the waggon was arrived, and about seven we renewed our march, quite disgusted with this sample of French politesse,

and, as we expected the same sort of treatment during the remainder of the journey, earnestly wishing it at an end: all that we regretted, was the misfortune of our acquaintance, although he said it was nothing at all, as he passed us on his way to the mayor's. As we were passing through the town, the mayor joined us, and after asking several questions, concerning people in the North of England, where he had resided for some time, enquired how we had been treated in the jail: we told him in a most scandalous manner. He said he frequently had complaints from the English prisoners, who had been lodged there from time to time, and was often sent for by them, which plan he wished we had also taken, as he would have made us more comfortable: he then enquired how we became acquainted with the young Frenchman who was detained; this I believe was the cause of his joining us; we told him that he met us accidentally, just before we entered the town, and as none of us could speak French, he very kindly offered to do any thing in his power to oblige us. On this, he said he should be obliged to send him to Dieppe, but that nothing would be done to him. He informed us that Eu was eight leagues from Dieppe, one from Tresport, a small harbour at the mouth of the river, which runs through Eu, and eight

from Abbeville, at which place we were to lodge this night; he then left us and returned towards the town.

The cart we now had, was much smaller than that of yesterday, and there was only one horse to it, instead of three. After we had proceeded a mile or two at a very slow pace, we came to a field where a man was ploughing with one horse: this was joined on to our cart, and we proceeded more expeditiously. Whether this horse belonged to the owner of the cart, or was taken 'en requisition,' I cannot say for certain, but am inclined to think the latter was the case. On coming to a country public house, some of us went into it with several of the soldiers, and got some excellent milk, of which I made a much better breakfast than I expected to have met with that day.

After marching about two leagues, we lost sight of the sea; the road was much the same as yesterday; the country was very level, although high, and no division between the fields, which are chiefly sown with wheat and flax; the villages, which are not numerous, appear to be so many small woods, as there is usually a number of trees planted about them, and

most of the houses have a large orchard round them; the few single cottages, or rather hovels, which are scattered about, as well as those of the smaller villages, are usually very coarsely constructed of mud, and are not better than those of the poorest sort in Ireland: those of the larger villages and about the suburbs of towns, are inferior to English ones in the same situations; the roads in many parts are lined with apple trees on each side. About noon, we stopped for an hour at a village ale-house and got some dinner, for which we paid much dearer than yesterday, although it was not near as good.

On approaching Abbeville, we got sight of a considerable body of water, which at first we took for the sea, but on asking a gend'armes, he told us it was the river Somme. To enter the town, which is pretty strongly fortified, we had to pass it by a bridge, near which we saw a sloop of about thirty tons building, and to go through three gates. The river runs through the town, and there was a number of boats on it. We pleased ourselves with the idea that if we were fortunate enough to escape from our lodging, it would not be difficult to take a boat and go down the river in her, then either take a larger, or cross the

channel in her, as we should find most convenient.

On entering the jail, we found it much larger than that of Eu: it contained twenty or thirty prisoners, who were here for various offences; a great part of them were soldiers. Seven of us who wished for beds, were shewn into a decent room with four beds in it, and were very civilly treated all the evening, although the walls contained memorandums of former Englishmen who had not been so fortunate. The rest of the prisoners were lodged in a chapel, which stood in the middle of the yard, and were rather better accommodated than the Frenchmen who were confined here; comfortably as we were accommodated in comparison with the last night, it did not at all please us to hear that we were to remain stationary all the next day.

12*th September*. Early in the morning, a man came in with the jailor, to persuade us to hire his cart for the conveyance of our baggage on the morrow, telling us at the same time, that the government did not provide one for us any further. We positively refused to comply with any thing of the kind, thinking it not very likely that a waggon would be allowed for two stages, and not for the remainder of the

journey. A long altercation ensued, and we determined to leave our baggage behind, rather than submit to any imposition of the kind; they said it must be so if we would not pay.

After breakfast, I took a turn into the yard, which is pretty large: one side is occupied by eight or ten dungeons, each of which is entered by two very strong doors. In one of them, an old man was confined in chains, who, we were told, had been there many years on account of his being mad: he was a most miserable object; when he was let out in the day-time for an hour or two, he amused himself in taking care of some tobacco plants, which were growing in the yard, opposite his cell; another man who was slightly deranged, was confined at night only, in an adjoining cell, without fetters.

No provision was served out to us this day, but we got a shoulder of mutton dressed for our dinner, which was the first decent meal we had made, since we were taken.

13*th September.* Whilst we were at breakfast, the man who was with us yesterday morning persuading us to hire his waggon, returned on the same errand; we desired the

jailor to send for the commissary of war; he pretended to do so, and brought word back that he was out of town, but had brought with him the landlord of the English Hotel to stand interpreter; by him we again informed them, it was our determination not to pay for any cart, but rather to leave our baggage behind. Whilst we were talking, we were much surprised to see two gensd'armes go into the yard with a number of small chains and padlocks, with which they proceeded to unite all our fellow prisoners by couples; having finished with them, we were called down, and coupled in the same manner; they were going to chain Mrs. Sever and an old man upwards of seventy, but on every one in the room crying out against it, they left them alone. We now received a loaf of bread a man and 2s. 2½d. amongst the whole of us. Being all ready for marching, they told us very angrily to bring out our baggage, and on opening the door, we saw the cart which had been waiting there, even at the time they were telling us none was allowed. Our bill came to less than we expected.

Our escort this day consisted of two gens-d'armes, and five Death and Glory boys, about twelve hundred of whom are usually stationed

at Abbeville. We were to lodge this night at Dourlens, which is nine leagues distant. As we passed through the town, several of our company were ashamed of the chains, but for my part, I considered them as no disgrace to us, and when I saw any person looking at us, I shook my chain at them, and asked as well as I could, if that was not a civil way of treating British prisoners of war, as if we were thieves or murderers. Most of those we passed, appeared sorry to see how we were treated, and several of the women gave some halfpence to the little boys who were with us. Ten or twelve boys who were of our party, being barefooted, were allowed to ride all the morning, as it was a long march.

About noon we stopped as usual for an hour to rest ourselves, during which time our chains were taken off. When we came to settle for our dinner, they charged us at least five or six times as much as they ought to have done; we endeavoured to persuade the gensd'armes to interfere in our behalf, but from their behaviour, were led to suspect they had a share in the plunder, and were obliged to pay what was demanded. On renewing our march, those of us who passed for officers, were not chained, and those who had walked in the morning,

now took their turn on the cart; a rope was made fast to the chains of the others, and one end of it coming to the tail of the cart, they were obliged to keep up, although at times we drove very fast. The road lay through several large woods, which made our guard particularly vigilant, as they, by being mounted would have been under a very great disadvantage in pursuing us, had we once been able to escape into the wood.

About seven o'clock we arrived at Dourlens, which is a considerable town, and pretty well fortified in the Department de la Somme. Before we came to the gates, the road was lined with several hundreds of mud huts, of a miserable appearance; but in the town are many large well-built houses. We were taken into the citadel, and given in charge to the jailor, who took those of us who could pay for beds, into his house: the others were put into a large vault under a building, which appeared to have been a church. After supper four were provided with beds at the jailor's, other six of us were shewn to the church, which is very long, and has eight or nine beds at one end of it. We were not allowed to settle amongst ourselves with whom, or in which bed we would sleep: this they settled for us, and I was appointed to the second with our mate.

14*th September.* Early in the morning we were awaked by some of our comrades turning out to rid themselves of the vermin by which they were attacked in all quarters: those who were farthest from the head of the room were worst off; we were very fortunate. About nine o'clock the jailor came to fetch us to breakfast; as we went we spoke to our fellow prisoners through the bars: they told us they had neither straw nor water, and that the quantity of vermin was incredible. We prevailed on the jailor to send them some water, but they were not allowed to come out of their miserable prison all that day. There was a number of Austrian prisoners in the same house with us, but we were not allowed to speak to them, being obliged to remain in our room all the day; even this we considered as a very great degree of liberty, compared with the miserable situation of our fellow prisoners.

At night when we returned to our bed-room, two Frenchmen who had occupied the first bed, being gone, we were all promoted one bed higher up. My bedfellow and myself found very little cause to be pleased with the promotion, as we were not able to get any sleep, on account of the various vermin with which we were tormented; those who slept in the

bed we had the night before, were not any better off than ourselves, and in short we were all glad to get to the further end of the room and leave our beds entirely.

15*th September*. About seven o'clock we had the pleasure of being let out to proceed on our march. Our fellow prisoners when they joined us, gave a dismal account of the situation they had been in during the preceding day, and two nights; the place in which they had been kept being very cold and damp, as it was about thirty feet under ground. An old man, who had been gunner of this citadel, was confined here in chains for many years, for having given up the keys of the gates during some period of the revolution, but he is now dead.

We continued our journey in the same order in which we arrived here; that is, the soi-disant officers alone being unchained, and the rest, except those who were riding, made fast at the tail of the cart. Two gensd'armes with five or six other soldiers, had charge of us, and our destination was Arras, eight leagues distant. The chief gend'armes disliked Englishmen very much, and we had several quarrels with him on the march, in which he used to

slash his sword about in great stile within half an inch of our heads: he had served in America, and endeavoured to frighten Mrs. Sever by shewing her the manner in which he had been accustomed to cut off Englishmen's heads, at the same time making blows within an inch or two of her's; but she told him that although he was a gend'armes, she was sure he was no soldier, from the manner in which he behaved to a woman. This reply made him flourish his sword about afresh, but he soon afterwards returned it to the scabbard, where it remained for the remainder of the day. On coming near a large wood, they made us deliver up our knives. The day was very rainy, and we had to pass through several villages, in which we got up to our knees in mud, neither the roads nor streets in France having any path for foot passengers. At each end of most of the villages hereabout, is a large image of the Crucifixion; they have been repaired within the last year or two, but appeared to receive very little adoration from the inhabitants.

About noon we stopped as usual, and the braggart gend'armes, with the soldiers, were relieved by six or eight gardes champêtres, —a poor miserable looking set of villagers,

some of them past their labour, and turned into soldiers because they were fit for nothing else. The gend'armes who remained with us, was quite the reverse of his former companion; and when we had got out of sight of the village, he returned those of our knives which he had received from his comrade, who did not forget to keep some of the best of them. Before sunset we arrived at Arras, which is a large and strongly fortified city; it was formerly capital of the Duchy of Artois, and is at present, chief place of the Department du Pas de Calais. We were taken to the town jail, which is very large, and at the time contained about a hundred and twenty persons, for various offences. When we were given in charge to the jailor, those whose knives had been kept, applied to the gend'armes for them; he assured us he had delivered all that he had received; on this Ned Giles abused him, as he was rather intoxicated, and on the jailor interfering, abused him also; for which he was immediately clapped in irons and confined under ground.

We here met with two fellow-countrymen; one was a Captain Howker, of a Jersey privateer, who had been prisoner about five years. He did not know the exact offence for which he

was sent to this jail, but supposed it to be for arguing on politics with some Frenchmen; he had been here six weeks, and had expected to be sent to Bitche, but was now beginning to hope it would be a less punishment. He had already been sent there twice, for complaining of the grievances of the prisoners; by whom, in consequence of his being able to write the French language fluently, he was very frequently applied to. He described Bitche to us as a very strong fortress, situated near the banks of the Rhine, on a high rock; and told us that all the English prisoners who deserted from, or otherwise misbehaved themselves at, any depôt, were sent there, and the offence of which they had been guilty, was marked against their name: there they are lodged in a large room under ground, which is occupied by about five hundred deserters, debtors, blackguards, and thieves, from the different English prisons; it is at times nearly up to a man's knees in water; the only daylight which enters, is by some windows which are close against the roof, so that they are obliged to burn candles continually: the prisoners are let out from about ten until noon, and again from two until four or five o'clock, during which the gensd'armes who are attached to the depôt, parade about with them, to maintain order.

The other Englishman we found here was a ship carpenter, who had been prisoner about three years, and was sent to this jail until a convoy was ready for Bitche, as he had deserted from the citadel in May with twenty-two others, all of whom had been retaken at different times before him: his intention had been to escape by the way of Holland, but after travelling some time in that direction, he was advised by some Flemings not to proceed, as a great number of troops were in the neighbourhood: he then travelled to the westward, intending to be off with a boat: he saw many hauled on the beach, in different parts, but it required six or eight men to launch one of them: he was at length taken at Boulogne, in attempting to carry a boat out of the harbour. During his travels which lasted a month, he never slept under cover, and was frequently in want of victuals and drink; the country people, particularly in Flanders, behaved very friendly towards him; and those who guessed what he was, used to advise him which road to take.

They informed us that there were not above five hundred prisoners at present in the citadel of Arras; the others, to the number of 2500, having been sent in the course of the last month, to Besançon, which is at the distance

of three hundred and thirty miles, on the borders of Swisserland.

We supped with the jailor, who told us the price was fifteen pence a head, but although the supper was scanty, obliged us to pay eighteen pence, because, as he said, we ate so much: this barefaced imposition quite disgusted us, and at the same time served as a warning of what we might expect if we once were in his power. To keep clear of him for the future, we used to buy a joint of meat, and have it together with the prison allowance in our room; the allowance was a pound and a half of bread, about three ounces of beef, some soup, and a piece of white bread bigger than an English penny roll, to put into it. Seven of us who messed together, had a very good room, with four beds in it; the rest of the prisoners had two comfortable rooms, with a truss of straw for each two persons. In these we were locked up from sunset until seven in the morning; during the day we had the range of a large yard, and the greatest part of the house, which is very extensive, having been a convent: it is now the property of an old lady, who bears the whole expense of a sick ward for the accommodation of the

prisoners, which she frequently visits, and of a chapel which she attends daily.

Saturday, 16*th September*. In the morning we applied to the jailor to release Ned Giles; this he positively refused to do, saying that if we remained here a month, he should not be released, as he struck him last night.

Thursday, 21*st September*. Being quite weary of continuing at this jail, we prevailed on Captain Howker to write a petition to the Commissary of War, requesting we might be allowed to continue our journey as speedily as possible, also to represent the impositions we suffered during the whole of our march, but particularly at this place, where we were charged double or treble the value of every thing we got.

In the evening, a clerk came to us with 3s. 9d. for each of the two captains and three mates, and 5d. a head for the rest, which is the marching money allowed for two days, and at this rate we ought to have been paid all our journey. He bought also a feuille de route, which is similar to a passport, containing our names and descriptions, the place we are going to, &c. on it is kept an account of the money and provisions we receive on the journey.

The names of Captain Howker, *Mauvais Sujet*, the carpenter, *Deserteur*, and a person who had been sent here from the Citadel a day or two before, *Voleur*, were inserted in the list, as on their march to Bitche, and we were all to set off together on the next morning: this made poor Captain Howker half mad, as he had been flattering himself with the hope of being soon returned to the Citadel.

22*nd September*. When we came down this morning, we found Giles released. He said he had not seen daylight during the week he had been confined; once a day a man used to bring him bread and water, a very small quantity of which he had any appetite for; the place was very cold and damp, notwithstanding which it was very well stored with vermin, who preyed on him at pleasure, as he had not the use of his hands to disturb them.

About eight o'clock, we set out on our march towards Douay, which is five leagues and a half distant; our escort was three gensd'armes, and five gardes champêtres. A house was pointed out to us, as the former residence of Robespierre: it is very large, and is at present occupied in the manner of alms-houses, by a number of aged people. He was either a native or an in-

habitant of this place before the revolution, at which period Arras and Douay were amongst the most riotous cities in France.

We arrived safe about five o'clock, and were conducted to a small jail on the walls of the town, directly over one of the gates. We were obliged to pay a crown for our baggage being brought up to us, as they would not allow us to do it ourselves. In this jail we met with Captain Capeland of Guernsey, Captain Patty of London, and eleven other Englishmen, who had deserted from Cambray in July, with about twenty others. Capeland, Patty, and Davidson, a mate, had reached the sea-side together, after a journey of sixteen nights, during which time they suffered a great deal from hunger, thirst, and fatigue:—the first nine days they lived entirely on what they were fortunate enough to meet with in the fields, and gardens, as wheat, apples, carrots, and wild roots; the bread which they took with them from the citadel being entirely destroyed by the torrents of rain which fell the first night of their journey: every day they had been obliged to hide in the corn fields, entirely exposed to the scorching sun, and often suffering from thirst. The seventeenth night, they heard the roaring of the waves, and by day-break arrived close to the beach, where a number of fishing boats of all

sizes were lying, but as they saw a Privateer turning into the bay, and day was breaking fast, they thought it most prudent to secrete themselves until night. After gratifying themselves with a draught of salt water from a canal, they went in search of a hiding place; the best they could find was in a small patch of corn near the road side, in the middle of which they laid down, and remained quiet until about two in the afternoon, when they suspected from the conversation of two or three little boys who were keeping some cows from trespassing on the corn, that they were discovered. The boys went away, but returned in about half an hour; after taking two or three turns round the corn to see how many there were, they went away again. The deserters now thought it high time to shift their quarters, and accordingly went behind a neighbouring hedge, where they had not been long, when they saw the boys return accompanied by nearly a score custom-house officers, who immediately went to the corn, but finding no person there, began searching about in all directions; after passing the hedge three times, they at length discovered the unfortunate trio, by tracing their footsteps in the sand. They were conducted to the nearest village, and had scarcely arrived at an ale-house, where they were lodged for the night, when it began to rain, thunder, and lighten tremendously,

and continued to do so all the evening. No weather could have been more favourable for taking away a boat, as they would neither have been seen nor heard in such a storm; the wind also was quite fair for England. Had the storm commenced before they were discovered, the search would have been given over, and most likely they would have got safe to England. The whole village soon assembled to see these strange animals, for such it may easily be supposed they appeared to be, after having been so long exposed to the weather without shaving, and their clothes covered with dirt, besides being much torn: their being Englishmen also, added much to the novelty of the sight. One woman who came with the crowd was crying very bitterly; on inquiring the cause, they were informed that her husband was a prisoner in England, and that seeing them in their deplorable situation, made her remember that he possibly was in as bad a one. As soon as the crowd who had behaved very quietly, were gone, the prisoners were glad to get some victuals: a supper of bread, butter and eggs, was all that the house afforded, and for this they were obliged to pay £1. 10*s*. 10*d*. which was four or five times as much as they ought to have done. They found they were about five miles to the westward of Dunkirk, to which place they were to be conducted

on the following day. The boys, it seemed, by whom they were discovered, first went and informed a guard of soldiers of it, but they paid no attention, saying, " they were only weary travellers, who had laid themselves down to rest:" on this the boys having looked again at them, went to a village, in which a great number of custom-house officers had arrived, to search for some sugar and coffee, which had been landed the night before from an English lugger. The greater part of their guards laid down in a back room with them, and three or four kept watch; They sounded one of the guards about letting them get away again, but he said it was out of the question to attempt any thing of the kind, as there were so many concerned, and their capture was so well known to the village; otherwise he would have been very glad to have settled the affair more to the satisfaction of both parties. They were much pleased to find all three were officers, as the reward for their apprehension is double that for the apprehension of a sailor. If I remember correctly, forty eight livres is the reward for apprehending an officer who has deserted, to be paid when they are returned to the depôt.

In the morning they made a bargain for their breakfast, to prevent being imposed upon as they had been the night before: about six o'clock they set out for Dunkirk, at which place

they were brought before the officer of gens-d'armerie, who questioned them from whence they had deserted, and their names. On their informing him, he produced their descriptions and names, which had been received from Cambrai, and finding they were the persons they represented themselves to be, he searched and took away their watches, money, and papers, which were to sent in charge of the gensd'armes, by whom they would be escorted to the depôt; allowing them to draw as much as they expended at the different jails. The officer told them, that if their watches, &c. had been taken from them at the time they were arrested, there would have been no redress, as it is made lawful prize by a late act. From him they were conducted to the town jail, where they met with ten others, who had deserted at the same time with themselves, five of whom had been arrested by the Police officers, as they were going through the gates of Dunkirk: the other five got sight of the sea one morning at day-break, and secreted themselves until about four o'clock in the afternoon; when being very hungry and having no money, one proposed to set out whilst it was light, that they might be ready to take a boat directly it became dark; this was agreed to by another or two, and in spite of the remonstrances of the others, who were obliged to follow their companions, rathe

than remain behind. They had not gone far before they met a man, who knowing what they were by their dress, &c. addressed them, and said, " that if they continued travelling during the day, they would certainly be arrested very soon;" he offered to let them stop in his house until dark, if they chose to return with him, and they accepted his offer. On arriving at the house, he gave them some bread and cheese, but whilst they were eating it, he caused the house to be surrounded by his neighbours, and they found themselves once more deprived of that blessing, *liberty ;* the next day they were lodged in the jail of Dunkirk, from which place they were about three miles distant when arrested.

About a week after Capeland's arrival, the whole party began their march; after a day's journey, they usually had to remain stationary for the ensuing week or ten days, and at Lisle, the chief place of the military division, they were detained six weeks in one of the worst prisons in France. The refractory conscripts and deserters from the army, who were confined with them, having the advantage of numbers, added greatly to the unpleasantness of their situation, by taking the best places in the prison, and frequently depriving them of their straw, with many other trifling vexations; but they were

advised not to make any complaints, as it would only aggravate their situation, the General of the place having an avowed dislike to the English. Being at length allowed to proceed, they had arrived at Douai the day before our party, where the conscripts and others, to the number of 40 or 50, were proceeding to exercise the same tyranny over them, which their countrymen at Lisle had done; but by the timely arrival of thirty able bodied seamen, which composed our detachment, the tables were turned, and 'les deserteurs Anglais,' could again go quietly to sleep without fear of losing their straw, by the encroachment of their fellow prisoners.

Five of us hired beds in the same room with Captains Patty and Capeland, which were separated from the parapet, by only a narrow path. As we were waiting outside, whilst the door was being unlocked, we looked over, and one of the party proposed, that in case we should be able to force the door or window in the room, and bribe the sentry, we should descend by means of our sheets and blankets on to the high road, although the height was at least 80 feet. I did not at all like this proposal, and said that I would not attempt it, until all the others were safe landed, as I should expect to see the first obliged to take a flying leap for the last 40 or 50 feet, for want of more blankets, &c. The

thought of such a scheme, whilst I looked at the diminished passengers and carriages below, made me shudder. The door of the room we were now in, which was the cleanest we had been lodged in during our excursion in France, was very strong and secured well on the outside, and the window was barricadoed with stout iron bars. After attentively examining every part of the room, we could find no part vulnerable, our only instruments being pocket knives. The moon shone very bright, and we sat round the window for an hour or two, enjoying the serenity of the evening. The sentry, who was an old garde national, had, we found, no objection to join in a glass or two of brandy, but as we could not get out of the room, it was useless to propose any thing to him about letting us off.

Saturday, 23rd September. We were awaked by the sun shining in upon us, which we had not been accustomed to of late; and from the window, we had the view of a most beautiful landscape, enlivened by a delightful morning. The sight made us all quite cheerful, although we could not help remembering that it was not to be enjoyed by us; we were to be shut up the whole day, with scarcely a glimpse of the sun. We had been informed we were not to renew our march until the morrow; as a man was to

be executed this day, for speaking against the government, and the attendance of all the military would be required. We were told, that a short time before, a man who had arrived from the neighbourhood of Walcheren, was arrested and sent to Paris, for saying that the English made a descent on that island; as it had not been announced by the government.

We agreed with Capeland and the other deserters, who made sure of being sent to Bitche, that if we were marched together, we would secure the guards, knock off the deserters' handcuffs, and all have a fair start in different parties, according to our inclinations; all our plans for deserting on the journey, having been hitherto frustrated. Being now arrived at the last stage, I was determined to make an attempt on the ensuing day's journey, without waiting for any companion, as it was my intention, if once arrived at the depôt, to give over all thoughts of deserting, and to apply my time to learning French.

Sunday, 24th September. At day-light, we prepared for our march, by putting on as many clothes as we could conveniently wear; I put on three shirts and a flannel waistcoat; I also cut a piece of bread, about two pounds in weight;

to fit the inside of my hat, and two other pieces to fit my coat pockets. Being thus accoutred, we began our march at eight o'clock for Cambrai, distant 5 and ½ leagues, with the same party with which we arrived here; the gensd'armes not liking to take charge of the deserters with so large a party. Although Capeland and his friends were left behind, the greater part of our company were resolutely determined on securing our conductors, who were only five in number: but it so turned out, that we seldom went half a mile without being met, either by a waggon, or chaise, or some gensd'armerie; about 150 of whom passed us on this day's march in small parties, of from two or three to a dozen each, on their way to join the army of Holland. Meeting with any kind of carriage was quite unexpected by us; for until we passed Arras, we scarcely saw one, and whenever we chanced to meet with a traveller, which was not often, he was sure to be stopped, and obliged to produce his passport. At about three o'clock we arrived at Cambrai, without any of us having been able to accomplish our designs of desertion, either separately, or in a body. I was much tired from the weight of my clothes, and had a head-ache, from being obliged to wear my hat during the march, on account of a drizzling rain. I scarcely knew whether to be glad or

sorry, that we were arrived at the end of our journey, for whilst we were moving about, I thought there was some chance of escaping; but, at the same time, the expense was conderable, and the inconveniences were very great; besides the continual insults we were obliged to put up with, from the inhumanity of the gensd'armerie.

After being conducted through the town, we arrived at the citadel, which was to be our abode. I was agreeably surprized at finding it a fine roomy place, about half a mile in circumference, without walls, or any thing to obstruct the view and air; the buildings, which are elegant, were all in high order. Having for some time past, been accustomed only to the tarred clothes of a merchant ship, and the filth of French jails, I was also struck with the cleanly appearance of my poor countrymen, who eagerly flocked round us, to see if they could meet with any old shipmates. We saw several of those who had been confined with us at Dieppe, whom we now considered as old acquaintances. We were not allowed, however, to converse together, until we had been to the Commandant, at whose office the Marshal Logie (nearly the same with a serjeant) overhauled the bags and trunks for ropes, and took away

every piece of line he could find. We next attended on the muster-master, who shewed us our rooms. Two captains, three chief mates, and Mr. Curry, who passed for owner of his ship, were quartered in officers' buildings; Captain Sever and his wife, had a room to themselves in Cantine buildings; the rest of us were put into No 22, Long buildings. This arrangement disappointed me very much, as I expected to have passed for a merchant passenger, and as such, to have received the pay, and lived with the officers; but I found out my mistake when it was too late; for I had been set down as 'seaman,' by the Commissary, when we were first landed, who seeing me dressed in an old blue jacket and trowsers, did not think it necessary to ask what I was, and *I* supposing it to be of no consequence until our arrival at the depôt, thought it would be as well not to give myself out for a merchant, until I was able to appear a little more like one.

We had a straw mattrass and one blanket served out to every two persons: these we spread on the bricks at night, and hung up by pegs in the wall during the day. We received also a stove, and some coals, with an iron pot to cook for twenty persons, which is the number allotted to each room, and which they contain with ease. We

had to make out a list of our names, and choose a captain to draw provisions, &c. for the room: the majority being of our crew, I was unanimously chosen; but declined the honour, as I was determined not to remain a week in that building, but, if it was not in my power to get a better, to run the hazard of a worse.

Monday, 25th September. This morning we received provisions for three days; which were, three pounds of brown bread, and one pound and a half of beef per man, with a small quantity of salt, vinegar, and peas; this, together with three farthings a day, and a suit of clothes once in about eighteen months, is all that is allowed by the French government. From the English committee appointed for distributing the money allowed by the Patriotic Fund, at Lloyd's, to prisoners of war in France, each sailor received seven-pence; and I as a passenger not on French pay, received 1s. 10½d. which sum we were to receive weekly. Without this assistance, small as it may appear in England, there would scarcely have remained a prisoner in France; as they would have been either obliged by their necessities to enter into the French service, or have perished miserably for want of the common necessaries of life: thus have the subscribers to this truly Patriotic Fund, most

effectually served about 10,000 British seamen and soldiers, by allowing them a penny a day, to supply themselves with the absolute conveniences of life; and to the assistance which I received from this fund, I with gratitude acknowledge myself in a great measure indebted for my present liberty.

The allowance to officers from the French government, is 29 livres per month, which is equal to 10d. per day; a bedstead, straw and flock mattrasses, a blanket and a clean pair of sheets monthly, to every two persons: with firing, provisions, and clothes, they have to supply themselves, from the 29 livres. On their first arrival, they receive each 12 livres from the committee; and when the funds are in a state to allow it, the same sum is given to every officer, three or four times a year.

The prisoners at Cambrai, form three distinct classes. The first is that of the officers, and includes all those who receive the 29 livres, as captains, chief-mates, owners, and passengers; who can prove that they had property on board, to the amount of £40.

The second class are called 'under-tonnage people;' and consists of captains of vessels

under 80 tons burthen, of passengers who had no property on board, and of those persons who have a claim to the 29 livres, but are detained from receiving it until they get certificates from the port they were first brought into; which sometimes takes twelve months. These receive 9 livres a month, from the Patriotic Fund; the women and children receive 6 livres each; as females have no other allowance from the French, than one pound and a half of bread per day. The son of a prisoner receives full allowance of money and provisions, from the day he is born; and is entered on the list of prisoners.

This second class does not exist in the eyes of the French government; their allowance differing in no respect from that of the third, and most numerous class; namely, that of the sailors and soldiers. At this time the number of officers was about 180. Under-tonnage people, 44. Sailors, 500. Soldiers, 150. Women, 6. Children, 4. All, excepting those who have their wives with them, are mustered every morning, noon, and evening, by the gensd'armes, who have three prisoners to assist them in calling over the names, &c. for which they receive salaries, and have a few privileges.

26*th September.* Three of our crew, and

four others of the party we arrived with, having entered for French privateers, an agent arrived, and got permission to take them with him.

Captain Connolly had been applying the last two days to the muster-master, to allow me to remove into the officers' buildings; but notwithstanding his repeated promises, he still delayed it. Being quite disgusted with the room to which I then belonged, than which few could be worse, from the constant noise of six or eight boys, who played regularly at cards and tossing up, until day-light, with parties from the other rooms;—we went to the Commandant, who said he was very sorry it did not rest with him, to let me have the 29 livres, and he advised me to petition the commissary of war for them; he told Captain Connolly to transfer me to his room, if it was not already full; adding, that if he could render us any other service, we were to let him know, and he would do it with pleasure. His secretary told Captain C. that a trunk had arrived from Dieppe for him, which from its weight appeared to have but little in it; and he said, it would be best to look if it was worth paying the carriage of it. On opening the trunk, we found that, with all the contents, it belonged to me: there were eight or nine shirts, and other things in proportion; all in very good

order, not having been tumbled about in the least: thus I, who had left the ship a month ago, with no other than the clothes I stood in, was now in possession of as many as would last me at least two or three years: and although it was on my account, that the Captain of the privateer had said none of us should have our clothes; he and his owners, in direct opposition to his intention, returned to me the greater part of mine: while no one else, excepting the Captain, ever saw again any thing which they had left on board: the greater part had, however, taken care to bring with them a bag, containing the best of their wardrobe. There was scarcely one of the prisoners who had so much baggage, at present, as myself; and I heard some of them say, as they looked at it significantly, they did not know how it was, but some people take care not to lose much when they are taken.

In the afternoon I removed into No. 7, officers' buildings; it was inhabited by twelve north country captains, besides Captain C. and myself, who made up the complement of fourteen. They were very sociable, quiet men, and we used to spend the evenings very pleasantly together; one person reading, or telling a story, for the amusement of the whole; and the others playing at cards, draughts, &c. until about ten

o'clock. Each room is divided into three parts; the largest of which, serves for parlour and kitchen, and has four beds in it: joining to this, is a smaller part which contains two beds; the other is entered by a separate door, and contains only one bed. The apartments are all very airy and lofty; the windows are large, without bars, or any other fastening which the idea of a prison makes a necessary appendage. Captain Connolly used to mess at a cantine: I paid 8 livres a month, besides my rations, to mess at Captain Sever's. The other twelve lived in the room together.

28*th September*. Captain Howker, and the other two who came with us from Arras, on their way to Bitche, were sent forward on their journey, and joined by the doctor of a ship, a native of Jersey, whose chief crime, it is supposed, was, furnishing some midshipmen with a bottle of aquafortis, for softening the iron bars they might chance to meet with, in their journey to Bitche; it was discovered in the collar of one of their coats: on being brought before the Commandant, the doctor is said to have tasted it, to make him suppose it was only a medicine.

Saturday, 30*th September*. The party of

deserters we had left at Douai, arrived, and were put into a jail at the side of the citadel gate. I used sometimes to go and talk with them, when the sentry was not at hand, although it was against the rules, which it was my intention to conform to, as much as possible. After they had been confined there a month, in which time several had gone to the hospital, the Commandant forgave them, instead of sending them to Bitche, which had hitherto been the punishment for the slightest offence. A few days before our arrival, he had forgiven about 50 deserters, after a very few weeks confinement; one half of whom, had been detected in the act of escaping from the citadel; fifteen others had got about eight leagues from Cambrai, when they were apprehended: they were conducted by two midshipmen, whose names were Atkinson, and ——. The former, and I, by messing in the same house, soon became very intimate; he was about seventeen, and had been prisoner a year; in which time he had made several attempts to get away: he had been taken by some gun-boats, having followed a small vessel too far in shore, with his boat. Another midshipman and boat's crew of the same ship, were here, who had been taken in like manner. We frequently amused ourselves whole hours together, in forming plans for

deserting: our favourite one was, in case we should be together, at the end of the next summer, when the corn would be high enough to hide us; that he and I, with two of the best of the shipmates of each, making a party of six, should provide for each person, a cutlass, or as good a substitute as possible; a blue smock frock, and a brace of pistols: heand I, as leaders, were each to be furnished with a compass, a map on a large scale, a tinder box, and a dark lanthorn, in order to be able to look at the map in a dark night; a bladder to hold water in, and another to secure half a loaf of bread, for each person, from the wet. On starting we were to make a promise at the tree of liberty, which still stands in the citadel, of remaining together, and making a common stock of the last farthing; and when once afloat, we were to swear by the main thwart, that we would live free, or die. When clear of the citadel, our course was to be directed towards the river Somme; travelling by night, and hiding ourselves by day: in case of being discovered, we were to make prisoners of those who saw us; and if attacked, were to consider ourselves as Englishmen, not as deserters; and conduct ourselves accordingly. Being arrived on the banks of the Somme, below Abbeville, we were to take a small boat, and proceed

down the river, then to take a large fishing boat, minding the time of tide; in her, we were to proceed to sea, carrying the smaller boat with us, in case of getting aground; when fairly out, we were to run down to Tresport, half way to Dieppe, and to board any lugger we might find there, and carry her into the Downs, with the crew battened down below: in case of not finding a lugger at Tresport, we were to proceed towards Dieppe, where some are continually lying. Daring as the plan may appear, I should have had very little doubt of the success of the latter part; for I think six armed men, animated with the near prospect of liberty, are at any time match sufficient for forty or fifty privateersmen, when lying under their own batteries in security.

October. The Commandant informed the prisoners, that he had received letters from Paris, authorizing him to permit those persons he could trust, to have the same liberty of living in town, which they had enjoyed before the attack on Flushing; as since that event, every person had been confined to the citadel. In the course of two or three days, about 100 officers had got tickets, allowing them to live entirely in town, and about 300 other prisoners were allowed to work in town, but all hands were obliged to attend the musters. Every one who had

belonged to the room I lived in, having taken their departure, I went to live in No. 16, which had been granted to a Captain Lyle for himself, and such of his friends as he chose; we were only seven in number, so that each had a bed to himself, which was an indulgence enjoyed by none of the other prisoners.

Captain Connolly having heard of an old acquaintance being at Arras, got permission to go there for three days with Captain Lyle, who introduced him whilst there, to an old lady, who having lost her friends during the Revolution, professed herself an enemy to the present government, and offered to procure four passports at ten louisd'ors each, from a relation of hers, who was mayor of a small town, and who had furnished her with ten for some prisoners, who had left Arras about three months before, and got safe over. The proposal was agreed to, and arrangements were made for forwarding them to Cambrai. When they returned from Arras, Captain C. took a lodging in town, and was always upon the look out with a Captain Marrin, who had been two or three years a prisoner, and spoke French very well, to procure a guide, and conduct us to the sea side; several offers were made, and they at length agreed with a man, who was to have ten louis advanced him, and then to set out for

Boulogne, to provide a place there for us, and to fix houses on the road, at which we should be able to stop with safety. After having been away about a fortnight, he wrote up that he had set up a painter's shop, and was ready to commence business, but on account of the very great expence attending an undertaking of this kind, it would be necessary to make a further advance of five louis; this convinced us of his roguery, which we had before suspected; nothing more therefore was sent him, and he never made his appearance again. They continued their search after another guide, and several offered, but they all insisted on a considerable advance of money before-hand. Many of these people had been employed in conveying priests out of the country during the Revolution. After several unsuccessful plans had been formed, I grew tired of waiting for guides, and agreed to desert with Capeland, who had been at liberty in the citadel for some time; we had frequently talked over, and discussed every plan we could think of; that which we intended to pursue, was to set out for Rotterdam, at which place he had been twice, and knew two houses which were kept by Englishmen: after getting clear of Cambrai, we were to go inland, until we arrived on the banks of the Meuse, as there would probably be much less suspicion in that direction, than nearer the sea coast: we then in-

tended to procure skaits, and proceed on the ice as far as we should find practicable. Captain Connolly having given me his ticket, by which I was able to go in and out of the citadel at pleasure, I was to get a map, and pocket compass as soon as possible. I procured an excellent map on a large scale, but was not able to find a compass in the whole town, although I tried every shop where there was the smallest probability of meeting with one.

October, 25th. All who belonged to the room I lived in, being about to remove into the town, I had to shift my quarters again, when Captain Lyle got an order from the Commandant, for me to have one of the back rooms to myself. I was now as comfortably situated as it was possible for a prisoner to desire; having a clean airy room, with a good bed, and an allowance equal to my wants; also a free passage to and from the town as often as I chose. I was, however, far from being comfortable, having neither employment nor amusement, nor was I able to think five minutes of any thing, except escaping; in talking and thinking of which, I usually spent the whole day. I endeavoured to inform myself of all the different methods which had been used to escape, and of the causes of their failure; they were as

various as it is possible to conceive. Once the Lieutenant of a man of war, escaped by changing dress with a young woman, who was being sent away with the other women; another time a prisoner dressed as a gend'armes, with two others in the character of conscripts, joined in the masquerade of Lent, and continued the masque until they were in safety. A Lieutenant of a Spanish privateer, having obtained permission to go out of the citadel of Arras, to his banker's, under charge of a gend'arme, received his money and went to a tavern, where the gend'arme having got drunk, the Spaniard mounted his horse and rode off. Too great a degree of rashness, without the necessary presence of mind and resolution, had been the cause of the failure of many attempts.

Capeland and I used often to travel over our intended route with the map before us, so that we knew not only the names of all the places near which we intended to pass, but also their bearings from each other. In the beginning of November, we waited only until he received some money, which had been due two or three months from a prisoner at Auxonne, who acted as banker.

28*th November*. The officers received notice

to keep themselves in readiness to march at a day's notice to Auxonne, at the distance of 300 miles inland, and in order to make the time they had to remain, more agreeable, by giving them a better opportunity of preparing for their march, and settling their accounts, all officers were allowed to go in and out of the citadel at pleasure, between the morning and evening musters. As it was the end of the month, the funds were very low with those who lived up to their income, and therefore, the musters were attended regularly, and every thing went on with regularity.

Captain Connolly was now endeavouring to get permission to proceed with Captains Marrin and Ferrin, in a post chaise without a guard, intending to go to Paris, which was not far out of the road to Auxonne; and from thence to get conveyed to the sea coast: they were each provided with passports, which he shewed me. In the marginal description, which was very exact; his person was described quite different, from what he actually was; a profile of the Emperor, and the words 'à l'interieur,' were made in the water mark of the paper, to prevent forgeries. Finding, however, that he would not be allowed to go in a separate party, he very gladly accepted an offer made him, by a

Captain Curren to join him, as he had a guide engaged, and all the necessary arrangements settled, for setting out very soon.

December 3rd. The officers received their month's pay, and being on the eve of leaving the town, the creditors of those few, who were in debt, became rather pressing: two or three unfortunate fellows had to pay all away, with the prospect of seventeen days march before them; for the greater part of which time, they would be obliged to live at the expence of their companions. When Captain Connolly had received his pay, I walked out of the citadel with him, and as he had previously told me, it was most probable he should be off that evening, we wished each other a speedy passage across. I did not feel the least wish to be of the party, which it was impossible for me to have been, as the guide refused taking more than two; I thought the plan I was engaged in with Capeland, preferable; although exposed to more hardships: the simpleness of it, (ourselves being the only actors) insured us from many accidents, to which the others were unavoidably exposed by the number of persons whose assistance would be necessary; treachery, or even inattention, in any of whom, would be sufficient to derange their plan.

L. of C.

Capeland had not yet received his money, but he daily expected it, and we waited for nothing else.

December 4th. As I was going out of the citadel this morning, I was met by an Italian Captain, with whom, and two or three others, Captain Connolly had lived; he stopped, and asked me very hastily, where is Captain Connolly? To which I replied, how should I know? After lamenting in a few words, that for one or two deserting, all the others would be punished, he concluded with abusing him, whom he had been accustomed to follow about the town, like a puppy dog, and said that he had deserted with Captain Curren.—I laughed at him, and said, if that's all, I am very glad to hear it. Every one I met, had something to say about it, and most of them were surprised that was not off too, but supposed it would be my turn in a day or two. Although they expected to have been recalled to the citadel, on account of it, all wished them success, excepting one or two supercargoes and outlandish men, who joined with the Italian, in desiring to see them speedily brought back.

For some time, various reports were flying about, concerning the deserters being retaken,

but without foundation. I was much surprised at not hearing from them, as they were to have written to me on embarking. I however concluded that they were safe, as I knew, in case of being retaken, they would have written concerning their clothes.

December 8th. About 40 officers set out for Auxonne, and parties of about the same number, continued to set out every other morning under a guard, until the whole had left us.

December 13th. Four sailors deserted, and as I knew them to be townsmen of Captain Ferrin, to whom I had lent my map a few days before, I had great fears for its safety, well knowing that the laws of honour in a French prison, do not prevent the obtaining of instruments for escaping by any means, even that of deceiving a friend. My fears, however, were without foundation, for the next day he returned it to me, offering at the same time, to buy it of me, at any price I would fix. I told him it was quite impossible for me to part with it, but promised to endeavour to procure another of the same kind, if it could be met with in the town. The next day I went to the municipality, or town hall, at a stall in which I had bought my map; but

found the man had removed to another town. I went to every shop where I supposed it was probable to meet with maps, and examined them at those shops where they shewed me any, but at many they denied having maps; although I knew to the contrary. In one shop I went into, there was a farmer, as I supposed, by his blue smock frock: not paying any attention to him, I asked if they had any maps of Flanders and Holland: the words had scarcely passed my lips, when I discovered by his sword, which he wore under the frock, that he was a garde champêtre: I was very glad when they said they had none, and walked away, but not without some suspicion that he would follow me into the citadel, and report what I had done. I was at length obliged to give up my search without finding one.

December 16*th.* The party who were to march this day, were delayed some time, waiting for Captains Marrin and Ferrin; a gend'armes was sent to their lodging, who brought word back, that they had not been there all night: this was rather unpleasant intelligence for a boot maker, who had delivered a new pair of boots the evening before, as well as for a taylor, who had furnished a riding habit for a French girl, who accompanied them, and was

appointed to meet Captain Marrin at the citadel in the morning for payment. The party were sent forward, and letters containing a description of the deserters, sent to twenty or thirty of the principal stations of gensd'armes, in every part of the Empire, from whence copies would be sent to all the subordinate stations, which is always done when any desertion takes place.

December 22nd. Our Commandant, Monsr. D'Helmont, member of the Legion of Honour, and Chef d'Escadre, having been ordered to join the army of Spain, left us. Nothing could have given us more sorrow: we would rather have had to march farther inland under his command, bad as the weather then was, than remain at Cambrai under any other person; although I believe the accommodations here, are preferable to any depôt in France. He willingly indulged the prisoners under his command, with as much liberty as it was in his power to grant, but the smallest deviation from their duty, was certain of punishment, without favour to any. It was his treatment of deserters, I believe, which gained him our love: after keeping them in a cachôt for a month or six weeks, they were usually forgiven, instead of being sent to Bitche, which was the practice of all other

Commandants. As he knew almost every prisoner under his charge, if any who had ever offended, applied for any indulgence, they received a lecture, and generally a refusal. He never made any deductions from our pay, although most of the others detained one or two sols out of the fifteen. His successor bore the same rank in the army, and although it was said, he was a royalist, was much disliked, on account of several alterations which he made, and of clipping our pay. After having commanded us about a month, he was superseded by another Chef d'Escadre, who was liked rather better than his predecessor, but was far from being popular, as he used to clip our pay, and dine with an old Lieutenant, who had the serving out of coals: being very fearful about our deserting, he put extra fastenings on all the doors, and made us pay for them. He was to be met with at certain hours in his office, which was the only time for doing business: D'Helmont had made the citadel his home, and was always accessible. Few transactions passed in any part of the yard, without being seen by him from his windows, the knowledge of which was a great restraint on the gensd'armes, most of whom are not a little addicted to tyranny.

Christmas, as usual, was attended with feast-

ing, the expences of which, had been provided for, by each person putting four or five sols per week into the mess bag. It was nearly the dullest time which I had passed in the prison; all the officers having left, there were only four of us to inhabit a large range of buildings, in which we appeared to be quite lost. Three mates, and about thirty men arrived at this time from Brest: they had been nearly two months on the journey, during which time they had been very badly treated, receiving no other part of their allowance, than bread and water; the prisons they had been lodged in, were usually very damp. The mates came to live with us, but were not allowed any bedding; we let them have what we could spare, which made them comfortable beds, compared with what they had been used to. Before they had been a week with us, all three were in the hospital together, with the greater part of their crews; this had been the case with most of the parties who arrived after the cold weather set in; few, however, lost their lives, a fever and ague was the most common complaint. After having been in the hospital about a fortnight, Mr. Brown, the stoutest of the three, returned to the citadel to join some other officers, who had lately arrived from Calais, on their way to Auxonne. He shewed me an American pro-

tection, which had been given to him: as it did not answer his description, but agreed pretty well with mine, particularly as to age and height, I bought it of him for some old clothes. The protection mentioned a scar on the breast: this I had not, but frequently intended to make one; however, not being very fond of enduring unnecessary pain, I determined to take my chance without it. Another mate soon after arrived, who had his protection in duplicate: it answered the description of Capeland, who had first told me of the great use, such documents would be in Holland, and set me on the look out for them. We bought one copy for two crowns: it mentioned a scar over the eye, another on the leg, and one on the arm; amongst the numerous scars with which Copeland was adorned, were three which would have answered, had they been on the opposite side; the paper being too thin to admit of any erasement, we were obliged to trust it as it was.

An order being issued for officers' buildings to be shut up, the four of us who had been living there, removed to a small room at No. 4, Cantine buildings, where with Capeland, and two or three others of the undertonnage people, we formed a very agreeable mess, and were not crowded, as the other rooms of the same

size were obliged to receive twelve persons. Not being allowed any other bedding than a straw mattrass and a blanket between two persons, several of us hired from the store-keeper, at three livres per month, those beds which Monsr. D'Helmont had allowed us.

1810. *January.* Several passengers who had not been sent to Auxonne with the Captains and mates, were now ordered away; amongst the number was one Nesbitt, in whose favour I had drawn a bill for ten pounds, in the month of September. Double the time which he fixed for receiving an answer was elapsed, without his acknowledging to have received any accounts from his correspondents, and although he promised to pay me the amount on demand, I could obtain only three louis, and that with a great deal of trouble: to many others he advanced only as many crowns, which is all they are ever likely to receive for their bills. This species of swindling is carried on amongst the prisoners to an enormous extent, and it is a great pity, that the Committee of the Patriotic Fund has not been at the trouble of pointing out some channel, by which bills could be negociated with honesty.

Being disappointed of getting money from

Nesbitt, which he used to tell me I could have, on calling for; I had recourse to a bill Captain Connolly gave me for 120 livres (£6.) which he had lent to Captain Lyle, who, when I shewed it to him, before he set out for Auxonne, not only acknowledged the debt, but said that if I should be in want of money to help me away, he would cash my bill for £20. I did not then want the 120 livres, as I expected to have about ten pounds without it, which we supposed would be quite enough for any expense which could possibly occur on our journey, but intended to leave it with him, as a body of reserve, to support us in case of being unsuccessful, and serve as a foundation for future attempts. I wrote to Captain Lyle, and requested him to remit the amount by the first opportunity, but received no answer.

Money falling shorter than we had expected, we were induced to admit a third person into the party; he was a young man, a native of Guernsey, who did not appear to be able to endure much fatigue, but like Capeland, he spoke French more fluently than English, and moreover had £20, which, circumstanced as we then were, outweighed all other considerations.

20th January. After having received several letters, and waited about six months, Cape-

land received about two guineas and a half, in payment of a seven pound bill of exchange, which had been drawn nearly a year. Every day now appeared to be an age, and I was very anxious to be off before the frost should break up Our money being all in silver, I had to get it changed into louis, for the more easy conveyance: for this purpose, Capeland and I went at different times together to several of the Cantines, asking if they had any louis, but they asked too high a price: at length a person who carried on banking, having arrived from Arras with a considerable number, made the exchange we were in want of. The cash we were now in possession of, as near as I can remember, was, Capeland three louis, myself four louis and two guineas, our companion eighteen louis, fifty English shillings, and a gold watch, which was to be sold, if occasion required it. On leaving Cambrai, we were to receive equal shares of the whole stock, lest we should be accidentally separated from each other, and were to make fresh divisions, as often as necessary, whilst we should have any thing left. On arriving in England, we were to repay what we were indebted to each other. The mainspring of a watch having been given to Capeland, I carried it to a watch maker, who I thought had the appearance of an honest man,

to be made into a saw for cutting iron; he not only immediately consented to make it, but shewed me a dozen or two of his own, which he said would answer better than the one I had, being stronger: but in this he was mistaken, as their strength would prevent their being coiled up, and covered like a button, which the other from its pliability admitted of, and in that shape, was intended to be secured to our clothes. I told him to have it ready the next day, but did not call until a week afterwards, and even then, reconnoitred the shop to make sure that there was no treason. I expected to have been charged a couple of crowns, instead of which I had only to pay four-pence.

25th January. At muster, the gensd'armes told Capeland that when it came to his turn to apply for the room ticket, he might save himself the trouble, as he would not be allowed to stir out of the citadel: this was a great disappointment, as he was only beginning now to get a little liberty, and it was likely to increase greatly the difficulty of getting clear of Cambrai. I immediately concluded that this restriction was laid on him for having enquired about the citadel for louis; but he suspected that one of our room mates, who was then endeavouring to get permission to spend

a few days at Arras, had taken advantage of his being a suspected person, and to shew his own fidelity, had informed on suspicion that he was about to desert again. He told the person he suspected, what he thought, and desired him to prove his innocence, which was of course an impossibility. After dinner Capeland went to a canteen, where several gensd'armes were sitting, saying he was determined to find the bottom of it: he remained with them until it was very late, and returned early the next day. After passing three days in treating them, he acknowledged to the person he had accused, that he had found him to be innocent.

29*th January*. When the hawker paid us his daily visit, besides the old clothes and books with which he was usually stocked, he offered a brass pocket compass for sale, which belonged to a man who had entered for a privateer. This was the first time I had seen any thing of the kind in the place; but notwithstanding the great desire we had to obtain it, we dared scarcely look at it for fear of some of our messmates suspecting us. I went out of the room, and waited on the stairs until the broker came out, when I gave him a crown, which was the price he asked, with a present to engage him not to say to whom he sold

it. I then took my morning walk for an hour or two in the yard. The first time we found ourselves alone in the room, we feasted our eyes with a sight of it, than which few things in our situation could please us better.

February 2nd, Friday. I told Capeland we must do something, as the frost would soon be over, and the only difficulty I could see, was how to get clear of the citadel. The methods I proposed, were, either to escape over the ramparts by a rope, which I knew I could get brought in by different persons in the course of a day; or else to arm ourselves with large sticks, and go about nine o'clock to the citadel gate, which we were to open and pass, if the sentry was off his post; but if he was there, wait until the gate was opened for some person to pass, and then rush through: he approved of neither, but said it would be as well to see how the exchange of prisoners, which was then much spoken of, turned out; until now, he, as well as myself, had disregarded these flying reports so much, that our messmates were frequently angry with us, and used to say it would be a pity if we ever got away, as we appeared to like the place so well.

During the last few days, I had been reading

the adventures of Baron Trenck, whose indefatigable endeavours toregain his liberty, made me completely ashamed of having been upwards of four months in Cambrai, obliged to attend three times a day to be mustered like a galley slave, without once attempting to regain my freedom. About the same time Capeland lent me a journal, which had been kept by one of the party he deserted with in the summer; the recital of the sufferings they endured, made me shudder, but at the same time urged me on to make an attempt, before I should be too much overcome by these tales of woe, and the plausible hopes of a speedy exchange.

Saturday, 3rd February. After all my room mates went to bed, I remained up, sewing a couple of buttons on my drawers, each of which instead of a mould contained a guinea, and fastening into my hat a false crown of pasteboard, which had two louis in it, besides making several other trifling preparations for a journey.

Sunday, 4th February. I did not get up until between ten and eleven o'clock, as I had been watching for an opportunity, when no person would be in the room, to put on two shirts; but was not able to meet with it. Just before noon,

I went to the Commandant, and asked permission to go into town : it was granted, and to a room mate at the same time. Immediately after we had been mustered, I returned to my room, hoping now to get an opportuuity of slipping on a second shirt, before any one came in. I was two or three minutes with my coat and waistcoat off, and a shirt lying on my bed, into which I had popt my head several times, and as often withdrawn it; being frightened by the noise of some one or other coming up the stairs, to the adjoining rooms. Capeland was the first who came in; I asked him to watch at the door, but the boy coming in immediately, and being followed by all our messmates, as it was dinner time, I was quite disappointed, and shoved the shirt under the bed clothes, as my pockets were nearly full enough. On taking out my money, and delivering the remainder of what had been in my charge, with the key of my chest, to Capeland; he asked " are you off?" I replied, yes. He then said " you will of course want the map and compass." I said that I should. He wished me success, which were the last words which passed between us, as the others were waiting for us at the table. I wished to have eaten heartily, but could scarcely swallow a mouthful; Capeland seemed to be as little inclined to eat. We endeavoured to

appear as at other times, but for my part, I never remember to have felt so agitated. Supposing that every one was acquainted with the true cause of my movements, I was happy to be hurried away by Hayman, who was impatient to get into town; and when we had got there, he knew as little how to kill time as I did. We called at a banker's, to enquire concerning some bills; then walked on the ramparts; from thence, to a coffee house; where, having read the papers over and over again, we commenced billiards, although it was Sunday: after two or three games I was tired, and left him; hoping that by the time I had got some things I was in want of, it would be four o'clock. Having carried the other half of the watch-spring to be made into another saw, I bought a large bladder to put my map into, in case of rainy weather: also about a pound and a half of ham, and a pocket knife: my pockets were too full to take any bread. I got a louis changed into silver money, and besides it, had with me one louis, besides the other two, and two guineas, which were concealed. It was only two o'clock, and I could find nothing more to do. I walked up one street, and down another, and thought that every person who looked at me, knew I was about to desert. I came to a church, and went into it for a few minutes; then returned to the

market place, where I met with a person of the name of Welch, who lived in the same room with myself; I asked him to walk, which he consented to do, after carrying some things he had with him, into the citadel. I walked with him to the gate, and waited his return with impatience; remembering, that if I again passed through the avenue of shady trees, which I was then pacing with so much uneasiness, it would be, most likely, worn out with hardships and fatigue, and chained to some miserable conscript or deserter; which, very possibly, might be the case in a few days.

In about a quarter of an hour, Welch returned with a companion: after passing some time in calling at two or three houses where they were acquainted, we walked round the greater part of the town. I endeavoured to persuade them to try to pass the gates, in order to have a walk in the country, but to no purpose. Returning through the market place, we met some others of the prisoners, with whom my companions were acquainted; as they stopped talking to each other before the Municipality, the town clock struck four. The sound of the hammer, whilst knocking off the irons of a pardoned felon, could scarcely have been more agreeable to his ears, than this was to me. Not having joined

in their conversation, I turned carelessly away, and sauntered towards the citadel. After I had gone about fifty yards from them, Welch called after me, and asked if I was going into the citadel already: I made no answer, but continued in the direction towards it: but when I was out of their sight, I turned down a street which led to the Paris gate; through which I passed without being remarked among the people who were passing and repassing, although there were several custom and police officers, besides two sentries, on the watch for passengers and goods. In case of being stopped, it was my intention to have told them I was going to a dance, in the neighbouring village, and to request them to allow me to proceed, which I knew they would not do. Being now without the walls of Cambrai, I was desirous that it would become dark, as I intended until then to keep close to the town. The Paris gate by which I made my sortie, was in an opposite direction to the road I had to go, which ran out from the Valenciennes gate. I purposely came out this way, that I might be able to sculk until it was dark, in going from one to the other, so that in case of being seen by any one who would trouble himself about me, I might be able to say I was on my return into town, by the Valenciennes gate, from a walk

in the country. I soon found the road uncommonly bad; it being a stiff clay, partly thawed. After having been out about half an hour, in which time I made very little progress, I began to consider if it would not be better to return and wait until the roads would be in a better condition for a pedestrian excursion: my chief objection to returning, was, the appearance of indecision such an action would carry with it; but as Capeland was the only person who had the slightest suspicion of my intention to be off, I got over that scruple, by determining to be away the next Sunday, if possible, whether the weather was better or worse; and I accordingly resolved on returning into the citadel, if I could get there by muster time. I kept on towards the Valenciennes gate, which I supposed to be nearer than that of Paris; after a great deal of trouble, being arrived within half a furlong of it, and close to the back of the citadel, I heard the muster bell ring. This certainly disappointed, but at the same time animated me; for I well knew if I was only a few minutes after the muster, which I had hitherto regularly attended, it was most likely I should be imprisoned about ten days in a cachôt; rather than suffer which punishment I had always been determined to desert, although I might be quite unprepared.

I set out with fresh resolution, knowing that my safety depended in a great measure on the distance I should be from Cambrai in the morning. There was a very thick fog, which increased so much, that I could not perceive a tree at the distance of a dozen yards. After having proceeded about a furlong, through gutters, ditches, bad roads, banks, &c. towards the high road to le Quesnoy, which I had frequently reconnoitred from the ramparts of Cambrai, and knew at once on arriving at it; I was surprised to find the road in as good order, and as dry as any I ever trod on; it being well paved, and very level, not thawed in the least degree. After taking the direction of it by compass to make sure that I was in the right road, I set forward with a heart as light as a feather, much rejoiced that I had been too late to return into the citadel. At first every footstep I heard, whether of man or horse, made me quit the road for the fields, where I laid down, or dodged behind the trees with which the road was lined on either side; but finding that I lost a great deal of time by doing this, and that very few persons passed, I determined to run the chance, and to keep the road. Every one I passed, wished me ' un bon soir,' which compliment I of course returned. The fog was so very thick, that we could not distinguish what

sort of a being it was that passed, although our elbows touched.

Having been walking at a very brisk rate, at ten o'clock I found myself at the entrance of le Quesnoy. I felt rather at a loss how to pass through this place, which I was obliged to do, on account of a small stream. As I drew near the gate, I found there were a number of houses outside the walls, in the way to and from which, several old women were continually passing the gate, many of them with lamps in their hand, and to the continual challenge of 'Qui vient?' from the sentries, one or more were always answering. I very quietly passed through, and although I had not the least idea of any of the streets, arrived in a few minutes at another gate, through which I passed with a party of five or six persons, who had just answered the challenge. Three roads now offering themselves, I took the left hand one at random, as I could not make use of my compass on account of persons occasionally passing: after going about a quarter of a mile, I found it became narrow and rugged, and on taking its bearings, found that it was not the right one. I spent some time in endeavouring to regain the right road across the fields, but was at length obliged to return close

to the town, and take the middle road of the three, which was as good as that from Cambrai to le Quesnoy.

5th February. I continued walking as fast as I could until four o'clock, when I thought it was time to look out for a hiding place to remain in during the day. On examining a barn which stood in a farm-yard close to the road side, I found one corner of it had been broken down, and was only repaired with loose stones, some of which I removed and then crept in: on groping about, I found that the end at which I entered, was occupied by sheaves of corn; in the middle a space was left clear for threshing, and at the other end the straw was piled up, in which I thought it best to hide, as there was more of it than of the corn. Having got to the top of it, I made a hole and put my hat in, and then worked myself in feet foremost until I was about two feet below the surface: then having pulled some over my face and hid my hands, I fell asleep without intending it, but was awaked about day-light, by the noise made by opening the door; two people entered, and after talking together some time, one went away, and the other commenced threshing. As I could distinctly hear every breath he drew, I was afraid

to breathe freely, much less to turn myself, although I felt quite cramped by not being able to move a single joint. In the course of the morning, I heard some children playing about the barn, but thinking myself out of their reach, it gave me no concern: however, one of them soon made shift to climb onto the pile in which I was hid, and called to the others to follow him; this put me in great consternation, as I thought my discovery inevitable; he crept about and at length got his knee directly over my face, and remained in that situation a minute or two, challenging the others to come up. Every instant I expected he would find that something under him was harder than the straw, and putting his hand down, discover me. Not being followed by any of his companions, he soon grew tired of his elevated situation, and condescended to return to them, very much to my relief. Had I been discovered, it was my intention to give the man a crown, but if he made any difficulty in letting me pass into the road, to employ violence, for which cause I intended to have my knife ready; however, I was extremely rejoiced at so very narrowly escaping discovery; for even had I got into the road without any alarm being given, I should have been so much afraid of every person,

that I might very possibly have run into the way of danger, in too carefully endeavouring to avoid it. Every person having left the barn, I was at liberty to turn myself, which I was very glad to do, and feeling the hands of my watch I found it was noon. I did not venture to uncover myself, but remained satisfied with the pleasure of breathing aloud, and the thought of being as yet undiscovered. The thresher soon returned to his work, and in the course of the afternoon the children came again to the barn. During their stay I did not consider myself very secure, but after amusing themselves some time, they went away without having molested me as they had done in the morning. When the man had left off work, and every thing was quiet, I arose and prepared to continue my journey by cleaning my clothes as well as I was able. Being ready, I found that although it was only four o'clock, the fog was so thick, that I might proceed with safety. I heard some dogs about the yard, and the corner at which I entered, I found was opposite the dwelling house; I was, therefore, rather puzzled about getting out; as I could not think of waiting until the people of the house went to bed, which would not be in less than six hours, I pushed down some of the stones which had been replaced in the course of the

day, and sliding myself out, made my way through a hedge to the high road, which was in as good condition for walking as the night before, being extremely dry and level. Finding an unpleasant taste, I put my finger into my mouth, from whence it returned covered with a thin black skin; and from my nose came a great many pieces of straw with a quantity of dust, which I had inhaled during the day. This night, as well as the preceding, I was very much annoyed by dogs, one or more of which belonged to every house; to defend myself from their attacks, I always carried in one hand a piece of ham, and in the other my knife: to a few I had to apply the former dose, but the latter to none. After walking about a league and a half, I found myself close to the walls of the city of Mons, which is sixteen leagues distant from Cambrai. I passed the outer gate, at which there was no sentry, and went close to the guard-house, where hearing them hail every one who approached, I was afraid to attempt to pass, and remained within hearing about a quarter of an hour, in which time five or six persons came either in or out, all of whom were hailed, and I believe examined. As it was necessary to cross the river on which Mons is situated, before I could get into the road to Namur, and as I had given up all

thoughts of going through the town, I returned about half a mile of my road to a cross road of which I had taken notice; it went to the Eastward, and I was in hopes that it would lead me to some bridge, by which I should be able to cross the river: having kept this road for a mile or two, close to a large body of water and ice occasioned by the river overflowing the adjacent country, I came to a narrow tongue of land, which remained like a bank above the water; along this I proceeded, in hopes of soon arriving on higher land, instead of which I arrived at the end of it, and was obliged to return about half a mile to the main land; I then kept on an E. N. E. course, over fields, hedges, ditches, or highways, deviating only when I was obliged by water. This manner of travelling was very fatiguing, from the roughness of the ground and the quantity of clay which stuck to my shoes at every step. About ten o'clock I came to a cross road, running nearly in the direction I wished to go. As I walked along, thinking it was time to eat, although I did not feel hungry, I took a piece of ham, which was the only provision within my reach, but being very fat, it did not long remain on my stomach. I considered that as my journey would not be at an end in less than a fortnight or three

weeks, it was of the first consequence not to take any liberties with my constitution, which would be likely to affect my strength before my journey was ended; I therefore resolved to go into some lonely house for provisions in the course of the night. About midnight, having passed through a village, I came to two small cottages adjoining to each other; a light was burning in one, and listening at the door I heard the humming of the spinning wheel: this sign of industry encouraged me to rap at the door, and on being asked, what I wanted, I inquired if they would give me a drink. The door being opened, I asked if they had any milk, and shewed some money, which I said I would pay with; they had no milk, but on asking for water, they told me rather roughly to come in; this I had no wish to do, as there were two stout fellows and two women in the room; but when they brought me a bason of water, I ventured in with fear and caution, and asked if they could let me have a slice of bread. Whilst one was cutting this, the others questioned me concerning my country; I said I was an American: they then desired to know where I was coming from, and to what place I was going; I knew the name of the village I had just passed through, where I told them I had been to a dance, and was now returning to

my uncle Monsr. —— who lived at a house standing by itself three miles off. They refused to receive payment, but having given them three halfpence, I set off with the bread in my hand, which I soon made room for in my pockets, by throwing the ham away.

6th February. I continued travelling all night keeping whichever road ran nearest to the direction in which I wished to go, until I came to a common or heath, in which small roads ran in every direction; here I kept as near my course as the irregularities of the ground, and the windings and branches of a river, would admit of. At length getting so much entangled in the branches of the river, I was not only unable to proceed in the right direction, but was unable to regain the high road, which I wished very much to do before day-break, as where I then was, there was not the least appearance of any hiding place, and I supposed it to be so little frequented, that the appearance of a stranger wandering about, would not fail to excite suspicion. On coming to a mill on one of the streams, I found a foot path, which led me to a cross road, by which I soon arrived amongst farms and villages. I endeavoured to find my way into several of the barns, but without success; but on arriving at a large inclo-

sure, which contained a farm-house, stables, &c., determined as the day was just breaking, to remain here if possible: after walking round the inclosure, I entered it very cautiously, and was creeping towards the barn which stood behind the house, when I perceived a light within; this made me stop: the door was opened, and a man came out hallooing to know who was there. I walked away pretty fast, the man followed; being some distance before him, I went into a village which was close to us; finding by the sound of his footsteps, which from the frozen state of the ground and the stillness of every thing else, could be heard at a considerable distance, that he gained on me, I got through a hedge partly by jumping and partly by scrambling, and laid down in the corner nearest to him; on coming near, he stopped to listen as I suppose for the sound of my footstep, which not hearing, he looked into the fields where I lay, but could not see me: he then turned up by one side of the field, and by the sound of his feet appeared to me to return home. I passed through the village, and continued advancing on the road, looking about for a hiding place. About six o'clock I met a man in one of the villages I was passing through, and on enquiring what place it was, found it to be Fleurs; I then enquired the

distance I was from Charleroi and Maubeuge, but he did not know either: this made me suppose that either he knew very little of the neighbourhood, or else that I had been much deceived in my route during the night, from which I expected to find myself in the vicinity of these places. Not being able to get any information from him, I continued to follow the advice of my faithful needle, which led me to leave the main road and cross some fields in search of another. At a short distance from the village, I had to cross a brook: here I washed, combed, and brushed my clothes, and in other respects put myself in as decent a condition as I could, expecting to be obliged to travel during the day. Having gone through the operation of dressing, I opened my map to see the exact situation in which I was. I found the village of Fleuri, and accordingly shaped my course. Having passed through two or three fields, I came to an old cottage without a roof, in which I thought for some minutes of hiding myself during the day, but was deterred by discovering an inhabited cottage near it; into which I directly went, and found a little old man and his wife. I asked them to let me have a drink of milk; they had none, but said I could perhaps get some at the next house, which until now I had not perceived,

on account of the number of trees by which that and another were surrounded. He then enquired what countryman I was; to which I replied, an American, travelling from Amiens to Charleroi; and asked what distance I was from the latter place, and which was the road to it; he said I was eleven leagues off, and after going into the village I had just left, my road was to turn to the right. I thanked him, but trusting more to my map than to his information, continued my way through the fields, towards a large wood, through which I intended to pass. As I was sitting on a stile, both to rest myself and to admire the view, which was uncommonly fine, I observed the old man coming towards me with a large bundle on his back. I was glad to see him, and waited until he came up, when putting down three or four new guitars, he asked me in which direction America lay, whether it was towards Holland, Germany, or France, the respective situations of each of which he pointed out as he mentioned them. I pointed to the West, and said it was at a very great distance. He kindly cautioned me of the danger of travelling in the French territory, if my passes were not very correct, and said it was a very bad place, for at every step you meet a gend'arme. I again enquired my road to Charleroi, which

he pointed out to me, saying, this is Fleurs, not Fleuri. Having taken up his guitars, he proceeded on his road, and after considering a few minutes what course to pursue, I determined to return to his house, and get something to eat, as I had finished my bread in the course of the night. On re-entering the house, the woman looked rather surprised at seeing me again; I said I had just left her husband, and would wait here until his return, as I was rather fatigued after my walk: to this she very willingly consented, and seating myself at the fire, with as much unconcern as if it had been my home, we began chatting together as well as we were able. Finding my left foot rather sore, I took off my shoes and stockings, and found the nail of my great toe, lifted about one eighth of an inch, and the toe itself much inflamed: this was occasioned, by having on two pair of worsted stockings, with short shoes, which had not been off my feet during the last eight and forty hours; a great part of which time, I had been walking as fast as I was able. I was much alarmed at this accident, as I could only expect that it would continue to grow worse until I should be able to keep it still. My hostess appeared to feel much for me; provided me with warm water to wash my feet, and a piece of linen to wrap round my toe, the

nail of which I cut quite short. We breakfasted together on soup, which, although meagre, I was glad to get. After sitting some time, the inhabitants of the two neighbouring cottages came in, and on seeing a stranger, enquired who I was: she told all she knew of me; after which, they asked me several questions. Finding they were asking things I scarcely knew in what manner to answer, I pretended to understand less and less of what they said. They inquired if I had any passport: on my saying I had not, they blamed the woman for admitting me, as it was most probable, they said, that I was a thief. Some proposed sending for Monsieur —— whom I believed to be the village gend'arme; but on another's saying he was gone to a neighbouring village, I thought that they agreed to watch that I did not go away, until his return, which was to be in the afternoon. I now considered myself as a prisoner, but not without hopes; however, as it was, I would willingly have given two guineas to be allowed to proceed, but was afraid to offer it, for fear of being refused. I affected to be quite at my ease, and took a short walk opposite the house, to prevent my limbs from becoming stiff. They did not offer to stop me, but kept an eye towards me. In the course of the forenoon, I extended my walk; but finding that when I

was at any distance from the house, they left off their work, and directed their attention to me, I still continued very uneasy, not at all liking the thoughts of being arrested at so short a distance from Cambrai as I then was.

About noon I joined the old lady in taking a luncheon of bread and butter; having eaten as much as I wanted, and filled my pockets, I determined to set out if I was not forcibly detained. I asked what was to pay, but she refused to take any thing, saying she did not sell provisions, but would willingly supply me or any other traveller with a meal. I laid down a twelve sous piece, and asked her if it was sufficient; she said the whole loaf cost only five sous, and I had scarcely eaten a slice. After a good deal of persuasion, in which I acknowledged the obligation I considered myself under, for her hospitality, in allowing a foreigner to enter the house, she consented to receive it as a present. I then said I supposed her neighbours did not want any thing further with me; she said, certainly not, it was none of their business where I went to.

It was one o'clock when I left the house: according to the old man's direction, I went into the village, but instead of turning to the

right, as he had directed me, went to the left, which agreed better with the direction of Charleroi from the point on the map, where I supposed myself, as Fleurs was not marked in it. After having walked in this direction about six miles, as I was making a sweep round a village to avoid passing through it, I came to a shepherd, who was not only watching his flock, but at the same time employed in making a ditch. Concluding from this sign of his industry, that he was an honest man, I asked if I was in the road to Charleroi: after considering a short time, he said, Ah Charleroi! that is the place which our coals come from; you must go through Fleurs and several other villages, whose names he mentioned. I thanked him, and returned to Fleurs; which place I reached at four o'clock: as I endeavoured to avoid passing through it, I became entangled with some cross roads, and was obliged to ask my way of a man who was digging, who informed me that I must go through the village, and then turn to the right, which I accordingly did: happening to look back, I perceived him leaning on his spade, and looking very earnestly after me; I fancied that he was inclined to pursue me, and did not think myself safe until I was at a good distance from him. Being arrived at the end of the village, I asked my road of a woman who was

spinning at her cottage door; she pointed to a turning nearly opposite, and said that I must 'go up the lane by that chateau.' I went up the lane at the corner of which stood a mud-walled cottage, but to my surprise, saw neither castle nor country house, which I understood by the term chateau: this led to a large waste land which was intersected by numerous roads and paths, and I was obliged to be directed by my compass. About sunset, I came to a farm house, which, compared with most of the others I had seen, was a very decent one: I went up to it, and asked the mistress, whom I met at the door, for a drink of milk: she said they had none; I asked for some water, and she bade me come in: seeing I did this with a great deal of caution, she said, 'Fear not my child, rest yourself, you are a conscript.' This I denied, but she said, never mind. I got a jug of water, and sat down. In the course of two or three minutes her husband, as I supposed him to be, came in, and she said, here is a poor conscript, quite a young man, he is very tired: fearing he might detain me, I rose to go; he told me to rest myself, but I preferred to proceed: the woman then came outside the door, and pointing to a village at a short distance, said you must turn away to the right to avoid the chateau, as the three gensd'armes are very severe men. I

thanked her, and did as she directed. I now found that the huts of the gensd'armerie were dignified with the title of chateau. The village being large, I had to go a great distance round to regain the road, which afterwards lay through large wood and waste lands. The night was dark and cold, notwithstanding which, I was so very thirsty that I kept taking water from a small brook which frequently intersected the road, first in one hand, then in the other, until they were both quite benumbed; after which I got several times on all fours, and drank from the half-frozen stream.

7th February. About midnight, I came to a road with villages and farms scattered about it; amongst these I eagerly looked for a resting place, but could find none: after walking two or three times through one of the larger villages, being very much fatigued, I laid myself down in a cart which stood before one of the houses. It was not long before I fell asleep, not having had two hours sleep since I left Cambrai: but in a couple of hours I awoke, the cold being so intense, that it had covered every thing with a hoar frost: I arose and re-examined every barn and stable throughout the village; most of them were infested with dogs, who set up barking directly I approached the doors; so

that the people at two or three houses got up and looked about the yard. In one door, I found a breach large enough to admit me, but not being able to find the bottom with my foot, I would not venture to jump, for fear of being unable to get out again; although the warmth of the place, made me very desirous of making one in the party of hogs which it contained. I took another nap on the ground, being sheltered from the wind, by a barn on one side, and a dunghill on the other; but could not sleep many minutes on account of the cold. I therefore kept forward on my journey, but at a slow rate, being very stiff. On entering a lane which was sheltered by a bank, with a small hedge on it, I found the cold so much abated that I lay down to sleep at the foot of the bank, where I had several short naps until daylight, when I proceeded but little refreshed with my night's rest, although better able to keep on my legs. After walking a short distance, I very unexpectedly came to the foot of a ladder, which appeared to invite me into a loft, the door of which was standing open: I joyfully accepted the invitation, and as nobody was yet stirring, I went up and hid myself in the straw at the farther end of it. Here I remained all day undisturbed, and was much better off than when in the barn I had

hid in before, as I was now able to turn about at pleasure, and keep my face uncovered. About sunset, I prepared to renew my march, and having brushed my clothes as well as I was able, I looked at the map to see where I was, and in what direction I had to proceed: having settled this, I intended to find by my compass, which of the roads I was to pursue, but on feeling for it, it was not to be found. I searched every pocket a dozen times, but in vain; it was gone! I looked about the loft, but still without success. I thought at first of returning to the places I had been in the night before, but concluded that if I had lost it in or about the cart in which I had slept, it must have been found during the day; and as I could not search after it until night, I determined to proceed at once, although I was quite dispirited at my loss, and thought it impossible to find my road without a compass, which had hitherto been my chief guide, and without which, particularly in dark foggy nights, I should not have been able to have kept an hour in the same direction. It was about five o'clock when I descended the ladder, near which several men were at work, but they did not observe me. I walked, as fast as I was able, past any persons I met with, that I might not appear to be fatigued, although I was much

stiffer than the night before. The evening became very dark, and the road was extremely rugged. By the time it was eight o'clock, I was completely knocked up, from the stiffness of my joints, and my sore toe, which I was sure to hurt against the frozen ground, at almost every step I took. At length I was obliged to lift one leg forward with my hands, and then draw the other after it: although it was only the commencement of the night, and I had not made much progress during the day. I eagerly looked about for a shelter, but could find none. Not being able to move any longer, I sat down on some logs of wood, which were lying at the road side; nor could I prevent the tears from forcing themselves into my eyes, as the aches and pains which I endured were excessive: at the same time I contrasted my situation with that of Capeland, and his unfortunate fellow prisoners, and thought myself extremely fortunate, in having arrived so far without accident. I also felt very glad that no person was with me, to be a witness of the helpless condition to which I was so soon reduced. Only three days before, no fatigue appeared too great, no undertaking too daring for me to attempt: now I felt myself a helpless being, trembling at the sound of a footstep. It was most likely, if I had had a companion who was not

as much fatigued as myself, he would have been displeased at having to wait for me. Having sat about an hour, I made shift to get up, and creep along very slowly, in hopes of seeing some barn into which I should be able to enter: in about an hour, having walked I suppose nearly a mile, I saw a ladder standing against a loft door. As the people in the house were still moving about, it not being ten o'clock, I was obliged to approach with considerable caution; for in case of any one coming after me, I knew it would be impossible to escape. I ascended the ladder very softly, but on putting my hand into the loft, laid hold of something alive, which immediately drew away. I descended and retired to a short distance, but finding that every thing remained quiet, I endeavoured to persuade myself, it was only a dog, pig, or some other animal which had been put up there. Being very unwilling to lose this lodging, of which I was so much in need, I again went up the ladder, and after groping about the door, but finding nothing, went in and covered myself with straw.

8th February. Waking about daylight, I found that I was lying close to something very warm: I supposed it to be the same animal I had laid hold of the preceding night, which I

hoped would turn out to be any thing rather than a man, but would not move myself for fear of disturbing it: my uncertainty did not last long, as he stretched himself, and said a few words, which not understanding, I feigned to be asleep: he then got up and went down the ladder. Being yet very stiff, and not wishing to travel during the day, I went to the further end of the loft, which was very large, and so full of hay that I had very little fear of being discovered.

I remained here the whole day, which was the most comfortable I had passed since leaving Cambrai. I finished my stock of bread and butter, and set out as soon as it was dark; at first I felt rather stiff, but it went off as I got warm, and I was much easier than I expected to be. I continued walking all the night, and directed my course by the north star.

9*th February*. In the morning I found myself at the side of a wood, which I entered, intending to remain there all day: having seated myself on the stump of an old tree, I began to pick out the letters which were marked on my clothes, intending in future to produce my American protection as a passport. By eight o'clock, several persons had passed near me, which induced me to

shift my quarters, and I accordingly left the wood. The day proved to be rather rainy. At two o'clock, after travelling through fields, I came to a lonely farm-house; I went in and asked if they could let me have a drink of milk. An elderly man, who appeared to have the gout, was sitting by the fire, which was made of coal dust, worked up with water and clay, into round balls bigger than my two fists, and retaining their shape whilst burning, looked like a pile of red hot shot: he desired me to sit down, and asked what countryman I was; I told him that I was an American. He then enquired if I had a passport: I produced my protection, which looking at, and not understanding, he shook his head at it. He asked where I came from, and to what place I was going. I said that I was travelling from Amiens to Namur; on which he remarked that neither of those places were mentioned in the pass. I told him it was not a common pass, but one which gave me permission to go to any part of the empire, in the same manner as the natives of France were allowed to travel through every part of the United States. He asked how long I had been at Amiens, and what my business was whilst there. I said I had been staying there about two months with my mother's brother, Monsieur Lercup. 'And

why did I leave him?' I was going to remain with another brother, who was an ironmonger at Namur. 'Where was my mother born? and what was her name?' Maria Louisa Lereux, born at Paris. 'Was I a Roman Catholic?' No, I was not. This question he put, from observing I did not cross myself at the beginning or end of my meal; for by this time I had tossed off two pints of milk, and demolished several slices of a fine brown loaf. Sacre—said he to this, and then demanded if my mother was not. Certainly she is, replied I. 'Then why not you also?' I don't know, but I never was taught to be one.—Not liking his questions very much, I rose to go, and enquired what I should pay him; having first put two or three good slices of bread into my pockets. He said I was welcome to what I had, and what I gave would be for the servant. I laid on the table, six or eight sols, and having received back my protection, the servant shewed me the direct road for Charleroi, which was at the distance of three leagues and a half. As I passed the barn, I saw two stout fellows threshing, which was a danger I had not been aware of. I thought that if the old gentleman had been inclined to arrest me, I should not have much difficulty in getting away from him. I soon

gained the right road, which was easily distinguished from any other, by the quantity of coal which was scattered about it, and by the nnmber of horses, each laden with a sack of coals, which were met on it.

As I approached the town, the roads became very dirty, and as there are no foot-paths to the French roads, I was often ancle deep: this made me in a very poor condition to pass through a town, in which it was unsafe to have the smallest appearance of a traveller, but I was under the necessity of passing it, at all events. Fortunately for me, it was just about sunset when I came to the suburbs, which appeared to be the most favourable part of the day for me, on account of the number of people who were passing in and out of the town. After going some distance amongst the houses, I saw one a short distance before me, which had iron bars before the windows, and on watching, found that all carts which passed it were stopped. I had no doubt but they overhauled travellers in the same manner. Being opposite to a lane which led to the river, I went down it, and having taken off my gaiters and shoes, washed them, and put the gaiters into my pockets; whilst I was doing this, two or three boys amused themselves, by throwing stone in

the water to splash me. I returned to the street, and passed the house I suspected, without molestation. After walking round a large square near the middle of the town, I crossed the river by one bridge, and recrossed it by another, which brought me into the Namur road as I wished. Charleroi is of a considerable extent, but not well built: the houses are in general small, and have a shabby appearance. I continued on the Namur road, for the distance of two leagues, when coming to a small house, which stood alone at the road side, I thought it would be a good place to try for a supper, and accordingly summoned up courage enough to go in and ask for a drink of milk; one pint was brought me, which was soon followed by another. Having sate about half an hour, and feeling myself tired, I determined on asking for a night's lodging: the only persons in the house, were a middle-aged woman, her daughter, or daughter in law, as I supposed, and an infant belonging to the latter; every thing about the place was very clean, although of the roughest kind. I asked what distance it was to the nearest inn on the Namur road: they said it was a short two leagues. I told them I had travelled from Maubeuge, and felt myself very tired; I should be much obliged if they would

let me remain the night, as it was now getting dark, and two leagues would detain me three hours; they said they had no spare bed, but appeared to consent to my remaining if I pleased. About eight o'clock, the husband of the young woman came home, and they told him what I had asked: he also told me they had no spare bed; but as he neither told me to go, nor appeared to be displeased with my staying, I remained quiet. In the course of the evening, two farmers came in, and bargained with them about some peas, but they did not trouble themselves about me. After this, we passed the evening round a blazing hearth very pleasantly; they were happy themselves, and wished to make me so. I felt myself quite at home, and partook of their happiness. My host asked me the age of his infant: I guessed six months, which was a few weeks too much: he then reckoned how long it would be before he would be able to walk and to talk, set me to guess his wife's age, his mother's, and then his own, and told me what time they had been married, how long he had lived in that house, with many other of his domestic concerns. The child left his mother to play with me. They asked my age, how many brothers and sisters I had, if any were as young as their little one, if I should not be

glad to go home and see them again; or perhaps, said they, you intend to remain always in France. I said it was very possible I might, although nothing would please me better than to return home again. He enquired what sort of a country America was, if we had good corn, beef, wood, potatoes, &c. I told him it abounded with all those things; but when I mentioned the prices of sugar, coffee, tea, molasses, &c., they regretted the high prices of them in France, by which their use was prohibited.

At ten o'clock we sat down to supper, which consisted of a large dish of potatoes, and a basin of melted butter and vinegar; after crossing themselves and remaining silent some minutes, we began.—Not being able to eat as many as they wished I should they said it was coarser fare than I had been used to, and brought about a dozen new laid eggs. Having washed my luxurious supper down with copious draughts of excellent milk, we finished as we had begun, and resumed our stations round the fire. Soon afterwards, they brought two trusses of clean straw, and a pair of sheets, coarse as sacking, but extremely white, which were spread near the fire for my bed.

10*th February*. In the morning, I felt myself very much refreshed by having had my clothes off. At day-light some farmers called here on their way to Namur, to which place my host told me he was going, and they set out together. Whilst they were in the house, one of them asked who I was: my host said, I was going to Namur, but being fatigued, had asked him to lodge me. The stranger put two or three questions to me, but the others being ready, he went with them. At eight o'clock I got up and had a bason of hot milk, with buns and eggs for breakfast: when I had finished, they asked me to join them, but herb tea without either milk or sugar, did not appear to me at all agreeable. I would willingly have remained here all day, but did not wish to tell them that I was travelling by stealth. About eleven o'clock, being quite refreshed and all ready to renew my march, I asked what was to pay: they said twelve sous: I gave a half-crown and told them to take twenty-four sous: whether they did or not I cannot say, as the change was in coin which I had never before seen. I think, however, they only took their original charge. On going out I enquired if there were any gensd'armes in the next village: they replied, that there were seven, and at the same time enquired if I was without a pass. I said I had one, bid them good

day, and proceeded with the determination of not passing through the village; on coming to it, I turned to the right. The village was large, and a wood lay between it and me; I was entangled for some time with the wood, and as the day was rainy, the sun seldom shewing himself, I had nothing to steer by, and was obliged to guess my road. I passed the cottages of several wood-cutters, but did not like to stop at them, until coming to one which was alone, I went towards it, and found three or four young children left by themselves in it; one of whom pointed out the road to me. It was but a short distance off, and quite level and clear, although it ran through the thickest of the wood: about a league from Namur, it ended in a very broad, well drained plain. A great number of persons were passing and repassing; the greater part of whom were healthy-looking country women, each carrying on her head a bundle of very fine flax, by which I supposed they were returning from market. I went into a house, and after getting a draught of milk, remained about half an hour to rest myself. It was about four o'clock when I came to Namur: it has good walls and the several strong holds which are in the neighbourhood, must make it difficult of approach to an enemy. The

gate to which I passed nearest, had an avenue of trees, about a quarter of a mile in length, before it: and from what little I saw of the town, which I did not enter, it appeared to be the most lively place I had seen in France. When I had got about two miles from the town, I discovered that I was in the wrong road: that which I ought to have pursued, runs along the banks of the Meuse: I therefore crossed some waste lands, and having descended the cliff which is about fifty feet in height, got into the direct road to Liege.

The river Sambre falls into the Meuse at this place; the stream was now very rapid, and drifted with it a great quantity of ice. There are several islands in the river, which, with the numerous houses and villages occupying the East side, which is low, and the opposite cliff which abounds with iron ore, and is enlivened in many places by groups of workmen, make the scene very picturesque. I travelled about four miles without meeting with many villages, compared with those on the opposite side. I then went into a cottage, where there were only a woman and her son about twelve years old, from whom I got some bread and water, but they were not given with a good will, and as soon as I had finished,

she wished me to go away to the inn, which she said was not far off. I continued sitting until two other sons and her husband came in from wood-cutting, who not appearing to be any better pleased with my company than the woman had been, I paid two or three-halfpence and set out again, refusing their offer to send the lad with me to the inn. I kept walking along the side of the river, until I was interrupted by a brook, about two miles distant from the cottage. I turned down by the side of it hoping to find a bridge: on entering a small garden through which the brook ran, a large dog came barking after me; I was afraid he would have laid hold of me, and alarmed the house, so that I should be taken as a thief, but before he had reached me, I found two or three planks laid as a bridge, by which I crossed into a small road, expecting to cut off the windings of the river, and get into a safer road: that by the river side was so very rugged and slippery, that it required no small degree of caution to travel it with safety, even by day-light. After going about two miles on this road, I found myself so much entangled by a wood that was intersected with a variety of roads, that I wished myself again on the banks of the Meuse, but as there was a drizzling rain, and neither moon nor stars were to be perceived, I could not

find the way. I thought one part of the sky appeared rather clear, and concluding it to be over the river, went towards it; but it still receded from me. Whilst engaged in this pursuit, I came to a small rivulet, which I knew would be a certain, although, perhaps, rather circuitous guide to the river in which it discharged itself. I walked on the ice in those parts where it would bear me, and where it was not frozen, kept in the bed of the stream over my ancles in water, as the sides were so thickly covered with trees, that it was very difficult to get a passage between them. I often made false steps by the ice breaking, but never hurt myself. On coming to a part of the wood, which was cleared away, and where there were several saw pits, I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to get a nap in one of them; having covered one completely over with the wood which I found about the place, and put in all the saw-dust I could collect, I made a night-cap of my handkerchief, a pillow of my hat, a blanket of my coat, and then went to sleep. About eleven o'clock I awoke, shivering all over with the wet and cold. I directly returned to the brook, and continued my walk along it; the rain increased, and the night was very dark. As I went along, I heard a rumbling noise,

which I concluded to be caused, either by a water fall, or a mill; as I proceeded, the noise increased, and I saw some sparks flying up to a great height: I quickened my pace, and on coming to the building from which they proceeded, and opening a door, a sudden burst of light prevented me from being able to distinguish any particular object at first, but soon I thought I perceived two large furnaces, one within a dozen yards of me, each of which were occasionally stirred up by something resembling a human being, with an immense rod of iron in his hand, which made the sparks fly up in great quantities: the roaring of the furnaces and noise of the water works heightened the horrors of this unexpected scene. I remained a minute or two motionless with the door in my hand, to recover my eye sight, as well as to assure myself that I was not intruding on the infernal regions, than which nothing could be more in unison with the descriptions and pictures which are usually given of them. I went towards the man who stirred the nearest furnace, and having told him that I had lost myself in the wood, from which I had vainly endeavoured to extricate myself since dark, asked if he would allow me to remain there until day-light: he consented with the greatest cheerfulness, and assisted me in

drying my clothes. The other man came to us, and having brought out the contents of my pockets, which were quite full of bread and butter, with two or three buns, we made our suppers from it.

I found they were occupied in melting the iron ore, which is procured in the neighbourhood, into pigs.—I laid down to sleep in the coolest part of the place I could find.

11*th February, Sunday.* I set off before sunrise, and kept along the banks of the Meuse: there were about twenty schuyts lying before the first village I arrived at. I looked to see if any belonged to Rotterdam, and would have enquired if any were going that way, but I was afraid. Having washed at a stream which crossed the road, I began to look out for a breakfast, but met with no houses, until about nine o'clock, when I came to several poor looking houses: as they all had small gardens, I approached without fear, knowing by this, that none of them were occupied by gensd'armerie, who not being certain how long they were to remain stationary, would not have been at the trouble of cultivating them. The first I entered, was detached from the others, and from seeing a calf at the door, I made sure of being able to get milk, but was disappointed. Only an old

woman was in the house, of whom I enquired if there was a mayor or any gensd'armerie in the neighbourhood: she told me that the mayor under whose jurisdiction this place was, lived at a village half a league distant. This intelligence was very agreeable, and having nothing to fear, I determined to try every house, rather than leave my breakfast, for which I had a keen appetite. I went into four or five, and found them all to be as poor as the first, having neither eggs nor milk, but being told of a large farm close by, where they kept a number of cows, I went to it. In the yard were three or four large dogs, who kept close to me as I went to the house, where on entering the kitchen, I found a servant girl employed in dressing three or four children. When I asked her to let me have some breakfast, she appeared to be quite frightened; I repeated my request, and said that I wanted some milk, and bread and butter; she still appeared to be quite frightened, and without speaking, stretched over to a shelf, and gave me the half of a large apple puff. I asked again for some milk, on which she beckoned me to come to the door, and pointed to a barn on the opposite side of the yard: directly I was over the threshold, she slammed the door to and bolted it, and then ran to secure the windows.

I could not forbear laughing at the fright I had unintentionally given the poor girl. I went into the barn, hoping to find it was a dairy, but it proved to be empty, and I suppose that she, in her turn, had the laugh at me: I walked away with the puff, which I found to be very good. I dare say she would have a long story to tell her master and mistress of the narrow escape the house had of being robbed, or the children of being carried away, as her first care had been to secure them in another place.

Passing through a village, I met all the people going to church: until then I had forgotten that it was Sunday, although the day before I had thought of it. The irregular manner in which I had passed the week, made it rather difficult to keep an account of time. About eleven o'clock, being in sight of Huy, I went into a very clean respectable farm-house, and asked for some dinner: they set before me some cold meat, bread, and butter, on which I dined heartily. Having rested myself about half an hour, brushed my shoes and clothes, and paid the reckoning, I proceeded into Huy, and after walking through several of the streets, I filled my pockets with apples, and continued my journey along the banks of the

river towards Liege. The greater part of Huy is on the East side of the Meuse, and joins that on the West by a very elegant stone bridge, the end of which is inclosed by a handsome fortification: an elegant quay is built along the river, to the distance of four or five miles; on it I met with a number of well dressed people enjoying the sunshine. I did not rest any where between Huy and Liege, but about two miles before I arrived at the latter place, I overtook a man, of whom I enquired the road. As he was going the same way, we walked together, and got into conversation. He told me that Liege was a very wicked place, and that, as soon as people found that I was a stranger, they would endeavour to cheat, if not even to rob me; he advised me whatever house I went to, directly on going in, to order my supper and bed, and not to join in company with any people who might be in the house. I thanked him for his advice, and said, as it was such a very bad place, I did not like to trust myself in it, but if he would let me remain the night at his house, I would willingly pay whatever he thought proper: to this he made some objection, which I did not understand, but I believe it was that he had to go to some other place before he returned home. He soon afterwards parted

from me, and I continued along the road, until I arrived at the gates of Liege. The suburb through which I passed, was of considerable extent. I endeavoured to get into the Maestricht road without entering the town, but after trying upwards of an hour, found I could not, on account of a rivulet which was only to be crossed by a bridge within the walls. I returned towards the gate at which I first arrived; on my way I called at a chandler's shop, and bought a pound or two of bread, and a lump of cheese. When near to the gate, I stopped to observe the motions of the keeper of it: as it was very dark, I could not ascertain if the foot passengers were interrupted, but from the number who passed, I thought they were not; the carriages, I saw, were. I took courage, and walked through without being spoken to, and immediately came to a very fine bridge over the Meuse: each side of the river was lined with hewn stone, and planted with rows of trees, which must give the city a handsome appearance in the day time. I did not lose much time in admiring the bridge, being anxious to leave the town before ten o'clock, at which time I expected the gates would be closed, when I should be in danger of being taken up by the patrole. I came to the gate I wished,

with very little trouble: it led on to a fine broad road, along which I travelled two leagues, but finding by the moon, that it did not run exactly in my direction, I returned to the skirts of the town; and not being able to discover the right road, I made up my mind to wait where I then was, until I met with some one who should be able to direct me.

12*th February.* In the course of the night, I took several naps in a cart, which stood under a shed, but whenever I awoke, I got up and walked a mile or two, to warm myself before lying down again. As it was a fine clear frosty night, I regretted very much not being able to proceed on my journey. About four o'clock, I heard the noise of people getting a waggon ready: in about half an hour they set out, and as soon as they came to me, I enquired of the driver, my road to Maestricht. He asked if I had been travelling all night, which I said I had not been, but had set out about an hour ago, wishing to be at Maestricht very early. After having walked with him about two miles, he shewed me a turning to the right, and gave me further directions for the road. I kept travelling over fields, and by cross roads: about eight o'clock, as I was crossing a common, I saw a gend'arme on horseback, with a farmer

walking by his side, at a few paces from me. I made so sure that no hope was left for me, that had I been near a wood, or any other place where I could have had the smallest chance of dodging him, I should have attempted it; but as I was circumstanced, I was obliged to face him with as much unconcern as possible: on meeting, I slightly touched my hat, and said 'bon jour, Monsieur,' in quite an indifferent manner: he returned the salute, by taking off his imperial cocked hat, and making me a very polite bow; but being engaged talking with the farmer, took no more notice of me. I continued my journey with greater spirits, but at the same time with more fear; the road being very intricate, as well as dirty, I was able to proceed but slowly. About noon I went into a small shop, and got some bread and butter as well as milk; the man and woman of the house were drinking tea, without either milk or sugar, out of very small cups. I remained here upwards of an hour, during which time the woman never put her cup down, except to fill either it or the tea pot: she was the greatest sloven both in house and person I had met with in the country; her husband was a very decent man, and answered any question I asked very satisfactorily.

On my way to Maestricht from this house, which was at the distance of two leagues and a half, I passed many houses and walls of the soft yellow stone which is called in England, Flanders brick; they had a very pretty appearance, and it is very easily quarried.

It was about four o'clock when I arrived close to Maestricht, which is a fine large town strongly fortified. As there was no occasion to enter this place, I took a road which led round the outer part of the works; it was very dirty. After inquiring of two or three people, I got into the Mayseck road. At sunset, being very tired, and the night proving rainy, I began to look out for some place where I should be able to procure a night's lodging: by going towards one house, and then towards another, without entering any, I at length got out of my road; and on meeting two women, who although employed in brickmaking had the neatness and simplicity of quakers in their dress, I inquired my way: they did not understand French, but took the trouble of waiting, although they had burthens on their heads, until I made them understand where I wished to go, and then asked me in Dutch, if I wished to go to Maestricht; I replied that I did, and they directed me accordingly. Having passed through

a small village without being yet come to the right road, I saw a farm standing by itself, and went towards it in the hope of being allowed to pass the night at it. In front of it was a canal newly dug out, into which the water had not yet been admitted: having crossed this, I went up to a young man and inquired the road, which he showed to me: I thanked him, and said that being very, tired I should be much obliged if he would allow me to rest myself in the house a few minutes: he said I was very welcome, and shewed me into the house, where his mother sat knitting on one side of the window, and his sister was working on the other. I begged to be excused for my intrusion, as having walked from Liege I was very tired. The mother not understanding French, her daughter stood interpreter; in a few minutes we were quite familiar, and I already began to regret the necessity I should be under of parting quickly from so interesting a girl. On asking me a question which I did not perfectly understand, after guessing an answer or two, I was obliged to confess my ignorance; on which she asked me what country I belonged to. On my telling her, to America, she said to her mother quite rejoiced, oh, this is an American: I thought when he came in that he was not a true Frenchman. The old lady now had several questions to put to

me, but the daughter had too many of her own, to allow her to interpret all of her mother's; but understanding several of them, I made shift to answer in Dutch. In this manner I told them, that I was travelling from Liege, at which place I had been about two months with my uncle, and was going to Bois le Duc, where I had another uncle who was a merchant. The daughter inquired if I had with me nothing to sell, and on replying that I had not, she asked what I used to do when with my uncle; I said that I used to write. She then asked if I did nothing else: I said that I did not: she directly laid hold of my hand, and looking at the palm, said, it was not writing which had made it so hard. I replied, that had arisen from pulling the ropes occasionally on our passage from America. Coffee and tea being ready, they invited me to take a cup with them, which I of course was not inclined to refuse. The farmer having come in, servants and all sat down together; they behaved to each other as brothers and sisters, and were all clothed in the same plain manner, excepting the mother and her daughter, whose clothes were rather better. The whole group resembled much more what we should have expected to meet with amongst the Patriarchs, than amongst the modern French. The farm yard was well covered with barns, and every thing

about it was extremely regular; the house with its furniture was as clean as if it had been in Holland. The farmer, on hearing what countryman I was, had several questions to ask; such as whether we had wheat in America, what price provisions were, &c. To save the trouble of so many questions, several of which I did not understand, I gave as good an account of America as I was able to do, in broken Dutch, explaining in French what I could not otherwise make understood. They were quite astonished at the prices of land, wood, sugar, tea, and coffee, &c. which the farmer abused the French for depriving them of: he told me he neither understood their confounded French language, nor liked their laws. He asked what language we spoke in America. Not liking to say it was English, I said it was a proper language, but this did not satisfy him, for he asked if it was Latin, Italian, German, French, &c. I said that it was English, but there were many villages, in which Dutch and German were spoken. Tea being over, they all returned to their various occupations, and I was again left with the mother and her lovely daughter. After sitting about a quarter of an hour, they said the young man who had brought me in, would go with me to the inn, and as they were acquainted

with the landlord, he would see that I was well accommodated. I said that since I had been sitting, I had got pins and needles in my feet, and felt so much more fatigued than before, that if it was not trespassing too much on them, I would wish to remain a little longer. They replied that I was very welcome, but they thought as I was so tired, the sooner I went to bed the better; that their house had not a room in it, which was not fully occupied, and that it was not more than five minutes walk to the inn, where they would take care that I should be well accommodated. To all this I replied, that I was too tired to move yet, which made them both look quite surprised, and they said, that if my pass was good, I could have no objection to go to the inn. I said my pass was good, and immediately produced it: they said they had never seen such an one before, and shook their heads; but I would not hear a syllable against it. Putting it again into my pocket, I sat down. In a few minutes, a gentleman came in very smartly dressed: the daughter ran towards him, and after a few words, he asked, whom have you got here? meaning me: she replied, it is an American, who talks English. I made sure he was the mayor of the village, whom they had sent for to examine me, and

when he went into the next room to lay his hat down, I said that as I now felt myself rather more refreshed, I would accept of the offer they had made of the young man to shew me to the inn: after they had given him very particular directions about speaking to the innkeeper, to let me have good accommodations, we set out as the stranger re-entered the room. By the few words I then heard, I found it was another son, who had just come from Maestricht.

I had arrived within a stone's throw of the village, without having been able to get rid of my guide, whom I had several times thanked for his trouble, and requested that he would return, saying that I should be able to find the house; but he kept on without making any answer, and appeared to be a very stupid lad: he was now about twenty yards before me, when I called to him to stop; he did so. On coming up, I gave him a piece of silver money, and told him to go back; he stood still looking at it, then at me, but did not come any farther. It was now past seven o'clock, the night was dark, and I did not know where to look for the right road, but was obliged to follow that which appeared to lead nearest in the direction in which I wished to go. I was stopped on one road by an

inundation, which extended to several of the adjoining fields: I then had to turn back and take another, which was very little better, being frequently up to my knees in mud and water, on passing places where the ice had been broken.

About ten o'clock I arrived at a village, through which I had to pick my way from door to door on stepping stones, which had been placed, where most necessary. On coming towards the end of the village, I knocked at the door of a very shabby cottage, and asked if they would let me have something to drink: a young woman opened the door, whom I begged to sell me some bread: she asked me if I would not come in, which I did with a very good will: an old man and his wife were sitting beside the fire, and desired me to sit down. I enquired how far distant I was from the nearest inn, and was told, one league and a half. They enquired what caused me to travel at so late an hour, particularly in that state of the roads. I replied, that it was necessary I should reach Mayseck as soon as possible: the young woman stood interpreter, as they spoke only Dutch. Whilst I was eating some bread and butter, which,

with some milk, had been set before me, they said if I chose to put up with a truss, as they had no bed to offer me, I should be welcome to remain there all night. This offer I was very glad to accept, and thanked them: they directly began to dress some potatoes.—On taking off my shoes and stockings, not only to dry them, but also to look at my foot, which had given me some pain during the day, I found it looked much worse than it felt, and the people of the house gave me a piece of linen, which was very requisite.

We continued chatting together as well as we could, until the potatoes were ready, when I was quite surprised to find this trouble had been entirely on my account, as they ate none, saying they had supped before I came in. When I had finished my meal, which received no small relish from the great kindness which had actuated these hospitable peasants in providing it for me unasked, when all their neighbours were asleep, as well as in welcoming me to their house; they spread some clean straw for me near the hearth, and seeing that I was sleepy, as I had fell asleep three or four times in the evening, even whilst talking, told me to lie down whenever I pleased. I laid down

without farther ceremony, and immediately fell asleep.

18*th February*. In the morning I was awaked by the father and mother, calling from the room in which they were, to their daughter, as I supposed her to be, to get up; and on looking about, I found she had just risen from another straw bed at the fire side. I enquired what time it was, and found it was five o'clock. I slept until about eight o'clock, when I found my breakfast of bread and milk ready, which having finished, I gave half a crown to be changed. It was about half an hour before they returned, having been obliged to go to several houses, before any one could change it; such is the very great poverty of the inhabitants of this fertile country. Their charge was a mere trifle.

It was about ten o'clock when I set out; the day was rainy, and my way was along cross roads. About one o'clock it began to rain hard: being at the entrance of a village, I went into a neat cottage for shelter; where finding only a woman and a child, and seeing some fine bacon hanging to the beams, I asked if she could let me have a slice or two with some eggs: she consented, and as she went into

the next room for a frying pan, I looked to see if there was any person there, whom she could send for a gend'armes. As there was no one, and the rain was increasing, I considered myself to be in safety; but having dined, and paid what she asked, I continued my journey towards Mayseck, at which place I arrived between four and five o'clock. It is a very inconsiderable town, as well with respect to its fortifications, as to its size and appearance. As there is a road round the walls, I did not enter the town, but got into the road to Wee t, which being little more than a foot path, was of course difficult to be distinguished from the others which crossed it: however, by frequently asking those I met with, if I was going right, I did pretty well, till getting into a wood, about one league from Mayseck, I completely lost myself. As it came on to snow, I kept the snow beating always on one side, and after walking in that manner about two miles, was glad to find myself once more in the open country. The first cottage I came to, I entered and enquired my road: they sent a little boy to direct me about half a mile across fields. The country on this side Mayseck was very barren, compared with the paradise I had, until now, been passing through, which I suppose, excepting Holland, may be

reckoned the best peopled and most highly cultivated tract of land in Europe of its size; although, for upwards of two hundred years, it has been continually changing masters, and has been the theatre of most of the bloody wars of Europe. The great number of large cities, most of them master-pieces of fortification, which it contains in a small space, are proofs of its population.

About seven o'clock I went into a very poor little cottage, and having asked the distance I was from the nearest inn, found it to be two leagues: I sat down, and asked if I could be allowed to remain there all night. The woman spoke only Dutch, and not understanding her answer, although she appeared to wish me away, I remained sitting until her husband came in, whom I made understand that I wished to remain at his house for the night: he appeared to have no objection. Having got some milk, and bread and butter for supper, I hung my shoes and stockings up to dry, and took my seat at the fire-side with the others. We were soon joined by two proper Dutch boors, who immediately they came in, seated themselves without even saying a word to the woman, or taking their pipes out of their mouths, and continued playing cards with the man of the house, and

smoking, until eleven o'clock, when they walked away without looking either at me, or any thing else. In the course of the evening, the woman and I had several times attempted to make ourselves understood by each other, but not being able to succeed, I took a few naps in my chair; she was employed knitting. When the company went, the man of the house took a lanthorn, and shewed me up into the loft, where I soon made a very good bed in the hay. This house was built after the general plan of this part of the country, that is, with the door in the middle; on the right hand side when you enter the door, is a stable for all their cattle; on the left, is a room with an immense iron cauldron, supported by a crane, in which they boil the chopped hay and bran, with which they feed the cattle; beyond this, is the room in which they live, and a small sleeping room; the loft runs over the whole building.

14*th February*. About eight o'clock, having had breakfast, and satisfied my host, I set out again on my journey. The morning was very sharp and pleasant, but my foot gave me so much pain, that I began to fear I should be obliged to look out for some lonely house in which I should be allowed to remain a week or two, whilst it was healing. On first setting

out, it was with the greatest difficulty I was able to set it to the ground, but it gradually gave me less pain, so that in about an hour I felt very little inconvenience from it; it only gave me pain when I chanced to kick against a stone, or the frozen ground. The country being quite open, and the roads rather intricate, I was frequently obliged to inquire my way. On entering the village of Leuroy, I saw a man with a blue frock on, coming towards me; taking it for granted by his dress that he was a farmer, I wished to ask my road of him, and seeing him stop at a door, I quickened my pace, but not coming up before he had entered, I knocked at the door, which was opened by himself. The house was adjoining the church, and as I waited, the clock struck eleven. I asked the road to Weert; having a glass of beer in his hand, he asked me to drink with him, and inquired where I came from: as he held the glass to me, I perceived that he had a brown cuff to his coat, edged with white, and knew by this, that he was a member of some of the divisions of the police. I refused the beer, and told him I came from Liege, repeating at the same time that I wished to know the road to Weert. He asked if I had a passport: I said yes, and immediately produced the protection: he then told me to come in, and in-

quired where I was going to: I went in and said that I was going to Hamont. He asked my name, and on my saying it was Keith, he looked at the protection, which beginning I Joshua Wingate, collector for the district, &c. &c. he said this is not the name which is here, and 'besides,' said he, 'this is for last year,' being dated 1809. I endeavoured to explain it to him, but as he understood scarcely a word of French, could not succeed. He asked me if I could not speak German, Flemish, or Dutch; I endeavoured to give him Dutch, but he could not understand what I said in it, although I made out every thing he said. He at length told me, it was not a proper pass, and that I must go with him. I then said, 'we only misunderstand each other; step outside with me a few moments, and I will explain myself better.' He looked very knowing, and pulling out a large horse pistol, said, you need not think of getting away: I told him he needed not fear my going without my pass; and laughing at his pistol, said, if it was to frighten me with, he would be disappointed, as it was most probable I was better acquainted with the use of such things than himself. The woman of the house, and her daughter, had been looking on, but dared not speak a word: the mother placed herself behind my opponent, and shewed

me by her gestures, the pain she felt for me; she appeared much more concerned, than I could have expected any stranger to be. Having returned the pistol to his pocket, he went outside the door with me; I offered him a crown to let me go, but he refused it; I then offered him two, saying, as it would only detain me an hour or two, and give both of us some trouble, he had better accept of my offer. I would have given him a louis or two with pleasure, but could not get at one easily. He would not listen to the offer, saying, the Emperor had made him a lieutenant three months ago, and that he would be faithful to the Emperor, and not take bribes; that he knew by my mustachoes I was a deserter from the dragoons, and must go with him. I said, he must think me a great fool, not to have shaved off my mustachoes, if I was a deserter, but that it was the fashion of my country: he said, then you are a spy, and the Emperor has ordered us to take up all spies, as well as deserters. I asked him very angrily, if he knew what he was talking about, when he called an American citizen a spy, and said that we were not at war with the French, but all of us who were in France, were under the protection of the Emperor, who would not allow us to be ill used. We returned into the house, and having

put on his hat, he said, I must go with him to the Mayor. I said, very well, but made sure of being sent to prison: I of course felt sorry at being arrested, and thought if I had only been able to take one step over the bounds of France, I should not have minded it half so much. I was greatly encouraged by the distance I had travelled without discovery, and began to form plans for escaping on my way to prison. I continued in the resolution I had formed long before leaving Cambrai, of never confessing who, or what I was, unless it was necessary to save myself from being shot as a spy, and even then, not until the day of execution, as I knew there was a minute description of my person sent from Cambrai to every town, which would be proof sufficient to clear me. The greatest concern which I felt, was on account of my shoes, which, although new on leaving Cambrai, were now nearly off my feet, and from the fear of being so completely plundered, as not to have enough left to buy a pair of shoes, which might hinder my escape, as it would excite too much suspicion to see any one well dressed in other respects without shoes. The possibility of returning to Cambrai in such a state as I had seen others in, was not very pleasing. On leaving the cottage, he took out his pistol again, and collared me; I looked at him very

hard, and asking how he dared attempt to treat a citizen of the United States of America, like a robber, disengaged his hand: he called out "Monsieur le Maire, Mons. le Maire," but Mr. Mayor, the back of whose house was separated only by a small field from us, not hearing, we had to pass through the village. I went first, and he strutted close behind, with his stick and pistol, apparently quite elated by his prize: the people who saw us pass, did not appear to join in his satisfaction, but I thought looked as though they pitied me. He knocked at the Mayor's door, and it was opened by himself; he was a good-natured looking man, his house was very neat, and had a mill belonging to it. After the usual salutations, he enquired what my business was. I told him very carelessly, the man had made me come with him, saying, that I was a deserter or a spy. He shewed us into his office, which the gallant lieutenant wished to secure, but the mayor said, there was no occasion, smiling at the man's precautions. The room being hung round with maps of the country, and views or plans of the neighbouring towns, I amused myself in looking at them, whilst the lieutenant gave a flaming account of his heroic achievement: when he came to the part, where I offered

him money, he enlarged so greatly on his patriotism and fidelity to his Emperor, and cut such capers with his pistol, as greatly to amuse both the mayor and myself. When he had finished, the mayor asked me very mildly, where I came from, and several other questions, some of which I did not, and others I pretended not to understand; being uncertain what answers to make. He then paused a little, and asked if I understood Dutch or German, I told him that I did not, but that I could read and write French much better than I could speak it, and asked him to be at the trouble of writing down such questions as he wished me to answer: he immediately got pen and ink, and wrote in French—Where do you come from? As I overlooked him whilst writing, and as under pretence of turning my words into French, I had time to deliberate on an answer, and could see all the former questions with their answers, I thought I should be able to do pretty well, and wrote in answer to his first question,

"From Liege."

"Where are you going to?"

"To Halmont."

"Do your parents live at Liege?"

"No."

"What business had you at Liege?"

"It was on my route."

"Your route from whence?"

"From Dieppe."

"How came you at Dieppe?"

"In the American Ship, Maddison, which was detained by a French privateer."

"On what account?"

"On suspicion of being bound to England."

"If she has been detained, you also were detained."

"That is not the law."

He then took up the paper, and after reading it over to those who were in the room, for by this time three persons had arrived, armed

with muskets and with swords to guard me to my destination, said, his answers are very clear, and he cannot be a deserter from the army, as he does not understand any of the languages which are spoken in it. He then wrote—

"What are you going to do at Halmont?"

"To see Monsieur Lereux, my mother's brother."

"What is he?"

"An ironmonger."

"Where is Halmont?"

When I answered his second question, I meant Hamont, a town three or four leagues off; but recollecting he might have acquaintance there, or might forward me with a guard to the person I said I was going to, and fortunately seeing a village called Halmont in the map, I determined to take advantage of an error, which, if I had not committed, would have added fresh difficulties to my situation: I therefore told him, it was a village on the river Aa, distant one league from Bois-le-duc. He put a ga-

zetteer of France into my hand; and I showed him the river Aa, with which he was satisfied.

"Why did you not obtain passports of the prefect, before you left Dieppe?"

"I did not know it was necessary. In America, foreigners are allowed to travel in whatever part of the country they please, without any more molestation, than if they were natives; and I supposed it to be the same here."

"What papers have you produced to pass you on the road?"

"That which is now in your hand."

"And no other?"

"None other was ever demanded of me."—At this he shook his head. He then read the paper over again to those who were in the room, and said he did not know what to do with me. One of them said, perhaps he is a thief. On which, my friend the lieutenant, told a man to lay hold of each of my arms, for fear I should draw out some weapon, whilst he proceeded to search my person. On their taking out my silver, the Mayor made them put it back immediately; the re-

mainder of my money, and my watch, they did not discover: having emptied my pockets, they felt the collar of my coat, and all about it, but not finding any thing secreted in the linings, they examined every thing which had been taken out of my pockets. The first thing they opened was my map; the Mayor asked me where I got it. I told him I bought it a Dieppe. He then asked if we had any such in America? I said there were plenty. He next inquired of what use it was to me. I was for a moment at a loss for an answer; but then said, that, as I was so little acquainted with the French language, it was difficult for me to make myself understood, in asking directions for the road; and if on leaving Dieppe, I had inquired of any one the road to Bois-le-duc, they would not have been able to inform me: but when I looked in the map, and asked for a place at the distance of six or eight leagues, they were able to direct me with ease. He said that I was perfectly right. On observing the bread and butter which were in my pockets, he said, that was very necessary, as it would not do to make too many stoppages on a journey. On seeing a spare pair of stockings, and two pocket handkerchiefs, the Mayor said, "he has deserted from Verdun:" on this the lieutenant jumped about, and said, "it is a lucky day for me, I shall have forty-eight livres

for having arrested him." I appeared quite unconcerned, and continued to amuse myself with one of the Mayor's little children, who had entered with its mother, as though I was uninterested in what was going on. The Mayor looking me in the face, said, "do you know Verdun?" "Vedin, Veedun—a town?" I shook my head, and said I had not passed through any place of that name. He then said, "see if he has not got two shirts on." The lieutenant soon looked; but finding only one, and a flannel waistcoat, they appeared convinced that I had not deserted from prison. He then wrote—

"Where did you learn French?"

"At a school in America."

"This," remarked he, "accounts for his not being able to speak it as well as he can write it." Whilst I was writing, Madame looked over me, and seeing my hands swelled and scratched to pieces, said, "poor fellow, what is the matter with your hands?" I said, oh it's nothing, merely the cold: but the mayor said, "he has scratched them whilst travelling in the woods by night:" which was actually the case. Having paused some time, he said, "I must send you to the prefect at Ruremond, who will provide you with the necessary passports to proceed on your journey."

I inquired the distance, and if it was on my route: he said it was eight leagues off, and told me to look at the map for its situation. I looked, and finding it quite out of the road, said with a sigh, (for I had told the same tale over so often, that it appeared to me like the truth) "that is a great distance to go out of my way,on so long a journey." He then talked for some time with the others, and told them he had no fault to find with me, excepting that my passport was not in due form; for which it was hardly worth while to send them to guard me so great a distance; but that it would be best to let me proceed onwards to my friends. They had nothing to say against this, and the Mayor wrote, "I will allow you to proceed on your journey, but if you are again detained, you must not say you have been here."

"Certainly not."

Here our conversation closed; and the Mayor took great care that I received back every thing which had been taken out of my pockets. He offered me both beer and spirits, but being warm with anxiety, I took a glass of water, and proceeded on my journey, after slightly expressing my thanks to him, for having given me so little trouble: but nothing would have

given me greater pleasure than to have given him my watch, as an acknowledgement of my obligation, and of the respect I have for him; as I believe him to be a magistrate, who would neither allow an offender to pass with impunity, nor endeavour to vex any one, who acted correctly, with the tedious forms of the law. The lieutenant was quite polite; he opened the door for me, and came several yards after me, to shew me my road.

I scarcely knew how to contain myself, as I went along, and now began to think it possible, that I might be fortunate enough to reach England: but I hardly dared encourage the thought; as the means by which I was to get over, were so little known to me, that I could not even form any probable conjecture of the manner in which it would be accomplished. I had not gone a mile, still engrossed with these thoughts, when I met a soldier, with a bundle hung by his sword over his shoulders: he asked me the road to some village, which I said I did not know, and continued walking on: he then asked if I had shewn my papers in the village I had just passed; I turned round and said, I had: this again banished the thoughts of England from my mind, and made me think only of the continual danger I was exposed to, of being arrested. About four

o'clock I passed close to Weert, which is a very poor little town, surrounded by a wall of no strength: after which, my road lay over large sandy downs, for the distance of two or three leagues. As I went along, several tilted carts passed me, each holding about six passengers: several of the drivers asked me to get in; but tired as I was, I would not venture; neither had I any cause to be sorry for my self-denial, as I observed that a person came out of the house at which they stopped in each village, and looked into the carts, as though it was for suspicious persons.

About seven o'clock, on coming to a very miserable looking hut, I resolved to go in, and get something to eat: on opening the door, I saw the father, mother, and five little children, round a table, which had a lamp and a large dish of potatoes, with a cup containing melted butter and vinegar in it. I went up to the table and asked if they would let me have something to eat. They said, if I pleased to sit down with them, I should be very welcome. I did so with pleasure, promising myself a fine supper, instead of a piece of brown bread and a drink of water, as I had expected. The good woman sent for a plate for me, which she kept well supplied with the smallest of the potatoes,

which are the best, and plenty of sauce. All the others helped themselves off the dish, sticking their forks into a potatoe which they dipped into the sauce, and then ate. When I came in, I was resolved not to remain longer than an hour or two, to rest myself for a night's journey; but feeling much fatigued, and finding the people of the house extremely attentive, I made up my mind to remain there all night. Having told the old tale, that I was too much fatigued to proceed to the next inn, I requested them to allow me to remain for the night; which was willingly complied with. Supper being over, we took our seats round the fire, and I pulled off my shoes and stockings in order to dry them; but the woman seeing they were dirty, washed my gaiters, stockings, and handkerchief. She also gave me some warm water, to wash my feet, which were much swelled, and my toe looked very bad. I asked the man if he had a pair of shoes which he could sell me; he had none except wooden ones, but told me of a shoemaker, who lived about eight miles off. On inquiry, I found that my road lay through his village, and I determined to call on him in the morning.

15*th February*.—I slept in the loft, which was rather cold, and having breakfasted, set

out about seven o'clock. On coming to the village in which the shoemaker lived, I went to his house, where I found him at his work. I asked if he had any shoes which would fit me: he said he had none ready made, but would soon make me a pair. I inquired if it was possible to make them before night: he said no, but he would let me have them in the morning. This would not do, but seeing a pair hanging over his head, and finding they fitted me well, I asked him to sell them; which he agreed to do for five livres and my old shoes to boot. Whilst he was making a couple of straps to my gaiters, I borrowed his razors; for on looking in a glass which was in the room, I was surprised that my savage appearance had not been the occasion of my being arrested. All the time I had been a prisoner, I shaved only my under lip and chin, leaving mustachoes and whiskers to grow at random, that I might be able to shave them into any shape I should find most convenient: but not having had an opportunity of shaving, since leaving Cambrai, and having been very much exposed to the weather, there was not any part of my face below the eyebrows, which was not thickly covered with hair, at least half an inch long. The shoemaker having finished my gaiters, took the razor, and soon relieved me

of several ounces of hair, making a clean sweep of the mustachoes, &c. which I knew it was not the fashion to wear in Holland. I settled with the man, and renewed my journey with fresh spirits; being quite warm about the feet, although not so in the face, which felt the loss it had sustained as severely as my back would have found the loss of a coat.

About eleven o'clock I passed close to Eyndhover, which is much such another place as Weert. After making a circuitous route of two or three miles through fields, I came to the finest road I had ever seen: it ran four leagues in as straight a line as possible, was broad enough for six carriages to pass abreast, rounding up in the middle, and planted on either side, with rows of trees. About two o'clock I went into a fine large clean farm-house, and asked for something to eat: the mistress did not appear inclined to comply with my request; but on my showing her some money, and saying I would pay for what I got, she gave me a slice of bread and butter, and a sandwich: I got some milk, and seeing some new laid eggs, put a couple in my pocket, and roasted two others in the ashes, which is the common way of dressing them in France. She did not appear to be pleased with me for making

so free; but when I had paid what she demanded, which was much higher than the charges I had been accustomed to, she brought some biscuits and sold them to me.

On passing through the village of Boxtell, which was very large and populous, I began to hope I had arrived at Bois-le-Duc, which I had always considered as a strongly fortified place, and very difficult to pass; but on enquiring of an old gentleman and lady, if it was Bois-le-Duc, they smiled, and told me it was Boxtell, and that Bois-le-Duc is a very large place, at the distance of two or three leagues. I thanked them and walked away, although the gentleman wished to have said more to me.

Having travelled about two leagues further, I came to a public-house, before which was a great crowd of farmers and carriers, each of whom had a horse. About half a mile distant, a bridge commenced, which I think is upwards of a mile in length, leading to the gates of Bois-le-Duc. The country, as far as the eye could reach on either side, was overflowed and covered with ice. I inquired the road to two or three different villages, in order to discover if it was not possible to avoid passing through Bois-le-Duc, which I much dreaded. I found

it was practicable, by going three or four leagues round, and intended to pursue that course, after satisfying my curiosity by a nearer look at Bois-le-Duc, which holds a place amongst the principal cities of the French empire. I felt the wind intensely cold as I went along the bridge, and when arrived at the gates, I liked so little the thought of returning, that I resolved to attempt a passage through the town: after watching for some time, I saw some countrymen pass through without being interrupted; but all horses and carriages were stopped. I waited until a carriage was passing, and entered close behind it: seven sentries were on duty in the battery round the gate, where some police officers also were looking out, as were some others just inside the town; but very fortunately no person spoke to me. It was about five o'clock when I entered the town, and I was very anxious to get clear of it again as soon as possible. I went along a street which ran nearly parallel to the wall, on the left hand side of the gate, until I crossed a bridge, which led me opposite the town house, where a number of people were assembled: I joined the crowd, whose attention was divided between the band which was playing at the town house, and some young lads who were galloping about on very fine

horses; both horses and riders were accoutred in the most costly manner I had ever seen. From the great number of troops which were in the town, and from the bustle, I concluded the emperor was there, but dared not to ask if it was so. I soon quitted the crowd, and keeping by the side of the river which I had crossed, arrived at a quay where several small vessels were lying; here I asked of a man my road to Engling, which was the name of a village about a league distant, through which I had to pass: he informed me that I must cross a ferry close by; but thinking we might have misunderstood each other, I inquired of another man; he said, "it's to England you wish to go, is it?" No no, said I, that won't do, but I must go to Engling: he then repeated the direction which the other person had given me. I went to the ferry, and having landed on the opposite shore of a small stream outside the walls, gave the lad who ferried me over, a small piece of money; seeing he was much pleased with what I had paid, I asked of him the road to Engling; he said, I could not go wrong, whilst I kept by the side of the river.

Bois-le-Duc is the handsomest, and most lively place I had seen in France; it is very strongly fortified both by nature and art; the

surrounding country can be overflowed at pleasure, to a considerable distance.

About half past seven o'clock, on coming near some houses, I met a young man, and inquired if I was in the road to Engling; he said, we were then in Engling: I then asked the road to Heusden; he told me of two ways, but speaking only Dutch, and not being able to make me understand as well as he wished, he said if I would go home with him, his father and brother who understood French, would direct me better than he was able. I hesitated for some time, not knowing if I should trust myself with him or not; but the place I was in being so very intricate, I had no other resource, and therefore followed him. As we went along, I asked if there was a Mayor in the village; he said there was, but that was of no consequence. Although it was dark, I could perceive that the houses were all very neat, and quite differently built from what I had seen in any other part of France. Having walked together about half a mile, we arrived at his house, which was a grocer's shop: on entering, I was astonished at the regularity and cleanliness of every article about it, which gave it more the appearance of a model, than of a place in continual use. I followed my conductor through

the shop, into a back room, where his father, mother, and brother were sitting: he told them that I wished to know the road to Heusden, and then went out again, having returned from the place where I met him, merely to conduct me. They told me the road to Heusden was so very intricate, that it was impossible for a stranger to find it; and advised me, as it was late, to go to the inn for the night, and to hire a guide in the morning: I thanked them, but said I was determined to reach the next village that night, as the moon shone, and it was not late: they then said if I pleased, they would send for a guide to conduct me to the next village, which is called Fleming, at the distance of two leagues and a half: I thanked them for the trouble they were giving themselves, and said it would be doing me a great favour.

Whilst I waited for the guide, they asked me if I was going any farther than Heusden; I said that I was going from thence to Gorcum; they told me my nearest road to Gorcum, would be to cross the river at once; but not wishing to do this, I said, as I had some business at Heusden, it was necessary for me to pass through it. They inquired if I was 'en requisition:' I replied, I was not. They then asked if

I did not belong to the French army, and appeared to be rather surprised when I said I did not; but I told them I was attached to the marine. I inquired what was the occasion for having so many troops in Bois le-Duc: they told me they were to march into Gorcum, and several other towns of Holland, on the morrow. I inquired if the Emperor was in the town: they informed me that he was not, but that the Duke de Reggio, a Marshal of the Empire, and Commander in chief of the Army of Holland, had been reviewing the troops. They asked me how long I had been at Bois-le-Duc; I told them not above an hour: they asked how I had obtained a passport to go into Holland in so short a time, as it is always necessary to apply three days previous to receiving it. I told them I was not under the necessity of going through the usual forms of getting passports at so many different places, as I was provided with one which not only served for the whole of the Emperor's dominions, but also for the kingdom of Holland. They said they did not know that there were any such granted, and expressed a wish to see it. I produced it, and said, "all the Americans who are in France and Holland, have similar ones." Not being able to understand a word, they returned it, far

from being convinced that it possessed the great powers which I ascribed to it.

The guide arrived, and having received his instructions, which were, to be sure and shew me the inn at Flamand, I paid him, that we might not have any dispute on parting: finding myself getting short of small money, I changed half-a-crown, and then set out. The night was very fine. My guide speaking only a few words of French, did not know that I was not a Frenchman.

The whole of the country lying between Engling and Flamand, which are the French and Dutch frontier villages, is a swamp, without any other road than what has been beaten by the footsteps of travellers. My guide told me it was allowed to remain in this state, as it was in neither country; the magistrates of each, being equally unwilling to incur the expense of draining and forming a road, the advantages of which would be equally great to their neighbours and themselves. Our road was very narrow and winding, and overflowed and frozen on each side. About ten o'clock we arrived at the Dam, which separates Flamand from the marshes; I gave him a small present, and said he might return; which

he was unwilling to do, saying he had been paid to shew me the inn: but I told him, I should be able to find it myself, on which he thanked me, and returned.

I crossed the dike, and entered one of the nearest cottages, asking them to sell me some milk: the man who opened the door, told me to come in whilst he got it: I accordingly seated myself at the fire side, where his wife and a young woman were sitting; the latter was much better dressed than appeared consistent with the appearance of the cottage, which was merely clean and comfortable: as she was the only one of the three who spoke French, we soon entered into conversation. After the usual questions, of where I was from, where I was going to, and what occasioned me to travel at so late an hour; she said, surely you are not a Frenchman? I replied that I was an American. "An American," said she, "oh, that is the country where the people are black, is it not? and where the sugar and coffee comes from?" I said that many of the people were black, and that others like myself, were only copper-coloured; and that sugar and coffee abounded there.

I sat talking over my bread and milk very

contentedly, in the hope of being able to sleep there, as I over-heard the young woman asking the man of the house to accommodate me with a night's lodging, urging that it was most probable the inn would be shut up before then, and that I should not be able to get into any house in the village: but he persevered in refusing, saying, it was too great a risk to lodge any one since the French had been in possession, and it was only a short time ago that the Burgomaster had published new regulations concerning lodgers. The wife said neither pro nor con, but gave me as much to eat and drink as I asked for; but finding the man to be inflexible, I did not say a word about remaining, but determined to sit as long as I was able. The Juffrow told me what she had been requesting, and said that she could not interfere much, being only a visitor, and then entered into a long tale concerning herself; but she spoke so fast, that all I could make out was, that she had a mother-in-law who was very ill tempered, with whom having had some dispute in the afternoon, she had come to this cottage, where the people were so good as to accommodate her: neither of us were yet tired of the narration, which I dare say would not have ended very soon, when the man told me I should be too late to get a bed at the inn if I stopped much longer. I asked if there

was any danger of not being able to find the inn. The visitor told me, that if I came to any gate which was closed, I must not endeavour to pass that way, but go another road, as it was closed on account of the road being overflowed, and proceeded to give an account of a person who had been drowned by falling into a ditch at night, and of two or three others who had nearly shared the same fate lately; the old lady confirmed these accounts, and added a few circumstances which the other had omitted. I sat very patiently, wishing success to the gossips, and should have been well pleased if they had continued their tales until midnight, which they appeared in a fair way of doing, as I well knew the instant they were at an end, I should be obliged, tired as I was, to quit a comfortable fire side, to trudge along an unknown road, on a frosty night, in the month of February; but the man getting tired of their gossip, which I did not wonder at, took his hat and said he would shew me the road to the inn, which obliged me to depart. After we had got a few steps from the house, I wished him to return, saying, I should find the inn myself, but he continued with me until we were in sight of it. I was well pleased to get clear of him, and having learned as we came along, the road to Heusden, continued my

journey, in the hope of meeting with some barn in which I should be able to rest myself until morning.

February 15th.—As I travelled along, I was surprised at meeting people who were passing from one house to another even after midnight. During the whole of my journey through France, I had never met any one after ten o'clock, and very seldom even after sun-set, excepting some companies of boys whom I met with the first two or three nights, who went across the fields singing until near daybreak: I could not guess the meaning of it.

It was near three o'clock before I could find any place to rest myself in: I then came to a stable in the midst of a village, in which, as there was but little straw, it was difficult to conceal myself; but intending to proceed at daybreak, I got under the largest bundle in a corner, which was sufficient to keep me warm. The first thing that awoke me was a person making a noise in removing some of the cattle. I was fearful of being discovered, but he soon went away, on which I got up, and without staying longer than was necessary to take some of the largest straws off my clothes, quitted the stable: having gone about a hundred yards, I came to

the church and the pound, where I found it was eight o'clock, and found too that I was going wrong, for I remembered to have passed them before: I had therefore to return, and after walking about a mile, was agreeably surprised to find myself close to the walls of Heusden. Being at a distance from any house, and in a road but little frequented, I washed myself, and put my clothes in as good order as I was able. I was not certain that it was possible to avoid passing through Heusden, which being fortified and without any suburb, I supposed would be attended with considerable danger, but I determined to go round it if possible: having walked for some time, I went into a cottage and asked for some milk, which having obtained I asked for some bread and butter; the people looked rather surprized when I told them I would pay for what I got, and said they did not sell any thing, but being in want of my breakfast I repeated my request until they complied. I asked for a second slice, which I had more difficulty in obtaining than the former, but having no idea of travelling on an empty stomach when victuals were to be obtained without danger, I insisted moderately on having more. I found that they supposed I belonged to the French army. Having finished my breakfast I asked what I should pay, but they

refused to receive any thing so very positively, that I did not press it any farther, but asked the man my road to Dort, who directed me, and said, it was necessary to pass a stream which ran close to the house: having a boat, he ferried me over, for which I paid him with a small piece of silver money. I soon came to the direct road, which was very easy to be known from any other, as it ran on the top of the dam, raised to prevent the Meuse, or rather as it is here called, the Maese, from overflowing the surrounding plains, which are in most places many feet below the surface of the river. I was very much gratified with this day's journey: it lay through a country I had often wished to visit, as it differs so very materially from every other part of Europe. The high road being lined on either side with houses adjoining each other, has the appearance of a street in some commercial town; the country looks like one well cultivated garden, having neither waste lands nor woods; notwithstanding which, there are trees enough in every direction to diversify the landscape, all the large roads being planted with trees on either side, besides those which compose the hedges and orchards. The method of building and ornamenting the houses, the dress of the

inhabitants, and particularly the great number and healthy appearance of the men, formed a striking contrast to the country which I had just quitted, where you scarcely meet with half a dozen stout men during a day's journey; here, on the contrary, at almost every house, there was a stout fellow with two or three sons as fat and contented as calves, employed about the business of the farm. The difference of the population on one side of Bois-le-Duc from that on the other, is so very apparent, that no person on passing through would hesitate in asserting that they were governed by different laws. If the traveller was unacquainted with the political state of the two countries, he would suppose, from the contented and comfortable manner of living in Holland, that they were far superior to the French, amongst whom, both in town and country, poverty and a certain degree of mistrust, are the leading features. But in whose eyes does not Holland appear insignificant in comparison with the mighty French Empire? Who, excepting an Englishman, would think of becoming a contented Dutchman, in preference to being made a citizen of France, whose armies, till lately, were deemed exhaustless and irresistible, but whose inhabitants are oppressed in a manner I should have imagined, few conquered countries could have borne.

Between three and four o'clock I arrived near Workum, and was again at a loss how to proceed, being afraid to attempt a passage through, as it is fortified, yet concluding, by looking at the map, that there was no road at the back of it; but having rested myself on the road side, I proceeded to search for a passage at the back of the town. After walking about two miles, I concluded from the direction of the cross road I was in, that I was going wrong, and should be obliged to return, in order to pass through the town: meeting a boy, I asked of him the road to Dort, who told me to keep forward until I came to the river, when I must turn to the left. Being quite rejoiced with this intelligence, I went forward with fresh strength, and, in a few minutes, arrived at the high road on the top of the dam. I travelled about two hours along this road until I came to a public house, from whence a ferry boat was setting out for the other side: as I knew by my map that I should not be able to proceed much farther on this side of the river, I would willingly have crossed over, but as there were six or eight men at the door, I made sure some were police officers. One of them asked if I wanted to go over the river, I answered I did not, and continued walking onwards: having crossed an inlet by a bridge,

I found the road was at an end, but I still proceeded, hoping to be able to avoid passing the ferry, where I felt certain that a passport would be demanded. Finding, at length, that I was on a swampy island, covered with rushes, I knew I was at the place called Dies Bosch in the map, which was one of the most fertile and richest parts of the United Provinces, until the year 1429, when it was overflowed, and seventy two villages with their inhabitants, to the number of one hundred thousand, were drowned: the steeples of many of the churches were to be seen above water an hundred years afterwards. The greater part of Holland is liable to similar accidents, which frequently happen, but on a smaller scale.

I returned towards the ferry, and entered it with three other passengers, whom I met going towards it from the house. I seated myself behind the others, in the hope that no person would speak to me, but on our passage across, one of them asked me in French if I had travelled far to-day: I said from Heusden; he answered that it was a long walk for this time of the year; not wishing to undeceive him as to my being a Frenchman, I made no answer. On coming to the shore, I made shift

to ask the boatman, in Dutch, what his fare was: he told me two schillings, which I paid. As he said something to the other passengers who followed him, I supposed he was telling them to come with him to the police officers, and followed at a short distance behind, not daring to go another way, but when they entered a public house, I kept walking on without daring to look behind, as I expected to be sent after. I found the name of the village was Hartingfeldt, and the distance from Dort two leagues and a half. It came on to snow hard, and I went into a house and asked the woman to allow me to remain until the shower was over: she said I was welcome, but did not confirm her words by her looks; I seated myself at the fire, and could not help being surprized at the extreme cleanliness of every article about the room: the turf fire was on a hearth, with a plate of iron at the back, which was polished as bright as a looking glass. The husband soon came in, and I remarked that he left his shoes at the door, which made me conclude it was my dirty shoes that displeased the woman: they got tea ready, and I hoped to be invited to remain and take some with them, and, perhaps, to get a night's lodging also, as it was nearly dark, but I soon found myself disappointed,

for they watched anxiously until it cleared up a little, and then told me that the weather was not very bad now, and that the inn was not far off. I took the hint and went away very little obliged to them for the shelter I had received. I passed several comfortable inns during the evening, but dared enter none; neither dared I examine the barns I met with; the road being lined on either side with houses, it was the same as passing through a town; but about ten o'clock, on coming to a shed which had the side nearest the river entirely open, I entered it, and finding it was used to keep some boats' masts and sails in, got on to the beams where there were some rushes, of which I made my bed.

17*th February*.—I slept so sound that it was seven o'clock before I set out the next morning. Between nine and ten o'clock, as I was going along, a boatman inquired if I was for Rotterdam, and pointed to his boat: I saw one person already in it, and another going in, so I went to it at once, not caring how far he carried us on our journey, as I was rather weary. The river was full of ice, which occasioned us to be near half an hour in getting across. I found by the conversation

of the other passengers that this was not the usual route, although at present the most eligible one, on account of the difficulty of passing de Leh, which is a principal stream of the Rhine. One of the passengers asked if I was going to Rotterdam, and, on my replying in the affirmative, he told me that he also was going there. The fare was near a guilder, but having no more Dutch money, I was obliged to give a French three livre piece, which, although the value was a guilder and a half, the boatman refused to take for more than his fare. One of the passengers had good nature enough to check him for his imposition. I walked some distance with the person who was going to Rotterdam, hoping to enter that place with him, but on passing through a village he stopped to talk with an acquaintance. I walked slowly on until I came to a farm house, which I entered, and asked for a glass of milk : they gave me about a quart of sour butter milk, having no other, which I drank and got some more, with two or three new-laid eggs, for two stivers. The road was on the top of a bank, but as there was a great tract of marshy land between it and the river, and it was destitute of houses, it lost the lively appearance of the country through which I had hitherto been travelling. I exerted myself very much

in the idea of being near the end of my journey, as I was not more than five leagues distant from Rotterdam, where I indulged myself in the hope of getting a good night's rest, which I was now much in need of. The only plan I could form for myself, was, when arrived at Rotterdam, to buy an old jacket and trowsers, and being rigged in them, to ship on board of any vessel I should find in want of hands. About noon I went into a cottage, hoping to find its inmates at dinner. Sitting down I asked them to sell me some bread and butter: they said they did not sell any thing, but that there was a public house a few doors off, where I could be supplied: I told them, that as they had some in the house, they could as well sell it me, in which they did not agree, but after I had remained about a quarter of an hour, they said, if I liked to wait until the potatoes were boiled, I might have some for three stivers, which offer I gladly accepted. As we were waiting, they frequently asked me questions which I could barely make shift to answer, and they remarked that it must be extremely unpleasant to travel in a country where I did not understand the language: they informed me of a family of French in the village, adding, that when the husband came home, he should go for some of them to talk with me; I thanked them, and said, it was of no consequence, as I would

set out immediately we had dined: however, when the husband came in, he was sent off to their neighbour, although I pressed him not to take the trouble; he returned in a few minutes with a lively little girl, about thirteen or fourteen years old, and said, the father was not at home. The woman having talked to her some time, and said, that I was a Frenchman, desired her to ask me where I came from: I replied, from Heusden: they then told her to ask where I was going to; I said, to Rotterdam; from my short answers, they put no more questions to me: but, after talking with the people of the house some time, the little girl went away without discovering that I was not her countryman. Having finished our dinner of potatoes, which are much finer in this country than any I ever met with, even in Ireland, and pocketed a slice or two of bread and butter, for which I paid extra, I continued my journey.

I passed through one village, when the boys were coming out of school, who hooted me as I went along, some coming forward and crying, Oh! here is a Frenchman! others hallooed after me, "Are the French coming to-day?"—Their abuse pleased me much, as I knew whilst I could pass as a Frenchman, I should not be in any danger in Holland. In the course of my

afternoon's walk, I went into a farm house, and asking for some milk, took down a looking glass and set my neck-handkerchief a little to rights, then got a brush and took some of the dust out of my clothes. Two or three stout lasses, who were cleaning the room, appeared to be quite astonished at my behaving so strangely, and told their father, who was employed in another part of the house, that a Frenchman had come in, who wanted some milk: he and his son came to look at me, but finding that they only spoke Dutch, after the usual salute, I continued asking for pins, shoe brushes, &c. as I wanted them, and behaved as though the house, and every thing in it were my own. The farmer and his son, after looking at me a few minutes, finding I was not mischievously inclined, returned to their business and left me to dress myself at leisure: having made an end of my toilette, I gave the little children a few stivers, and having made the gaping daughters a congé, walked away.

On arriving at the village of Ond Rattendrecht, which is on the bank of the Maese, opposite to Rotterdam, I found it filled with French troops; I was much afraid that some of them would speak to me, and had it been only the most simple question, such as what

o'clock it was, I should have been in great danger of being discovered, for whether I answered in French or Dutch, they would have found I was a foreigner; but I was fortunate enough to arrive safely at the jetty, from which the ferry crosses over to Rotterdam. A new danger here presented itself, which I imagined to be insurmountable—a guard of about a dozen soldiers were stationed here, for the express purpose, I supposed, of examining the passports of passengers. To avoid being noticed by any one, I went to the extremity of the jetty, and feasted my eyes with a sight of Rotterdam, wishing to be able to give my companions at Cambrai a good account of its appearance, as a proof of my veracity, when I should tell them the almost incredible tale of having arrived so far in safety. Indeed, I now had always to reflect some time before I could realize my true situation, having been so long used to give a fictitious account of myself and my concerns. Every moment I felt as the last of my liberty, expecting to be accosted by some of the guard, who were so very near me, and scarcely dared encourage the hope of reaching the opposite bank. At length, the ferry boat having arrived, I went into it with several other persons, who were waiting, and we shoved off without being molested in any shape by the guard. The day

was foggy, and I was rather concerned at not being able to perceive any masts of ships amongst the houses, which made me fearful that I should find none but small vessels employed in the inland navigation.

The place we landed at, is about a quarter of a mile from the gates of Rotterdam. Several masters and mates of vessels were trying some quadrants; I stood near them a few minutes, inclined to ask if any of them would ship me, but as there were several other persons looking at them, I was afraid, knowing it would be necessary to enter into some explanation on the spot. I went towards the city, and entered by the Delftshaven port, much surprized at seeing neither sentry nor police officer; the clock struck four as I went through, so that I was exactly thirteen days and thirteen nights on my journey from Cambrai.

It occurred to me that it was about 'Change time: I therefore went into the middle of the town, in search of the Exchange, hoping to hear some one speak English, in which case, I intended to make known my case, and ask if he knew where I should be able to get employ on board of some ship. I had not proceeded half a dozen steps through the Exchange, be-

fore I saw an advertisement, in large letters, of the Joseph's cargo for sale, at St. Vallery en Caux. When I reached the gate opposite to that by which I had entered, 'change was over, and the gates were being closed, so that I had to reconnoitre in the town. On my way to the Exchange, I had remarked one house, which had for a sign, an American eagle amongst other things, and a great number of shops with a list of the articles they dealt in, painted in English. I now met with two American vessels, and soon after saw a house, which had for a sign, an English and an American jack. I was much surprised, and went near to look at it; whilst I was examining it very earnestly, two young women dressed in black, came out of the next house; as they came down the steps, one of them seeing me look so very attentively at the sign, began laughing, and said something to the other, who soon joined her: as they passed me, I could scarcely forbear joining in the laugh, as I well knew I made rather a strange appearance, and not being able to muster a Dutch sentence, was on the very point of saying, in English, that I did not doubt if they were acquainted with my situation, they would be as ready to assist as they were now to laugh at me; but, supposing it would have been quite unintelligi-

ble, and thinking that some person might pass and hear me speaking English, I said nothing. As there was Dutch painted under the sign, and nothing in English, I would not try that house: having walked up and down several streets, without seeing any other American vessels, or any house which I could venture to enter, I then endeavoured to return to the two American brigs; but after trying in vain for some time, I observed a man in a green livery turn round and look very earnestly at me: suspecting him to be a police officer, which I afterwards found was the case, I determined to retire from the town as quick as possible, and to return to it early in the morning. Having bought as many biscuits as I was able to put in my pockets, I went out of the East gate, and continued walking from the town until it got dark, when I would willingly have secreted myself, but the road being lined with houses, and a great many people passing in every direction, rendered it unsafe to attempt it: about ten o'clock, having walked about three leagues and a half from Rotterdam, I came to a hay-rick, close to the road side, with a thatched roof, which slid up and down: here I thought would be a fine warm retreat, and immediately jumped into it. I was scarcely in, when a dog, who had obtained possession before me, began to bark;

I had passed some men standing at a stable door close by, and supposed they would pursue me; I therefore made the best of my road off. The houses began to be but thinly scattered, and soon afterwards there was only a marsh covered with reeds on one side of the road, and meadows on the other side; there were large piles of reeds in several parts of the road, from one of which I took several bundles, and made a bed under the lee side of the large pile, where I slept until midnight, when I was awaked by the intense cold.

Sunday, 18th February. I got up and walked back towards the last village I had passed through, having observed a barn belonging to the end house, which I thought I should now be able to enter, as the people would be all asleep. On coming to it, I found a hole, such as is made for poultry to go in and out, which being just large enough to admit me, I made shift to enter, and found it to be occupied by pigs, with whom I would willingly have laid down for the sake of warmth, had it not been for the noise they made on going near them, as well as for fear of dirtying my clothes. I was very cold, as there was no straw in the barn, and although very tired, was unable to sleep many minutes at a time. After

remaining here about an hour, I went out to keep myself warm by walking; on arriving at my former station amongst the reeds, I laid down again, but was soon awaked by the snow beating on my face: not being inclined to move, I pulled a bundle or two over my face and took another nap; the snow however soon penetrated my covering, and I was obliged to return to the barn for shelter: here it was useless to endeavour to sleep, and I remained anxiously hoping for daylight, sometimes lying down to rest, and then rising to warm myself. I resolved to return to Rotterdam, and bring my journey to an end, by seeking shelter in the first place I came to with the smallest probability of obtaining it, as I felt the fatigue of this night much more sensibly than any I had yet undergone, not only from having exerted myself very much the last two days, encouraged by the prospect of drawing towards the end of my journey, but also from the disappointment I felt in being obliged to quit the place in which I had expected relief, without finding it.

At daylight I set out for Rotterdam, where I arrived about half past eight o'clock, directing my course towards the American vessels as well as I could guess. I met with a public

house which had for a sign, the town of Boston, I knocked at the door and asked the woman who opened it, in Dutch, if they had any coffee: she replied they had not, and I walked away. The next house I called at, was that which had the American and English jacks: here also a woman opened the door, and I asked if she had any coffee; she said they had none. I was about to inquire if her husband was an American, but was afraid of exciting suspicion. Having proceeded a few yards, I saw the two American brigs which I had passed the day before; I now saw that one was called the Desdemona of New York, and the other the Friendship of Boston; I went on board of the latter, and asked the black cook, who was the only person on deck, if the Captain was on board: he said he was, but had not yet turned out; I then inquired if the mate was; he said yes, and went to call him: when he came up, I asked if his vessel was in want of hands, or if he could inform me of any American vessel that was: he said there were none in the port excepting the two, and from the uncertain state in which they were lying, he did not think they wanted any more hands than those who were already on board. I then asked, if he could direct me to any lodging house kept by an American;

he said, he did not know of any kept by Americans, but he could tell me of several kept by English people, if that would answer my purpose; I replied, it was all the same to me, provided I was able to make myself understood by them: he then inquired if I was an American; I told him I was protected as such; on which he offered to go with me to the house at which I had just before called, where he said he was sure I should be well used. As we went along, he asked if I had come from up the country: on telling him I had, he said, "I suppose it's the same with you as with several others who have been here of late;" I told him I dared say it was, and when he asked what part I was from, informed him that I had left Cambrai in France fourteen days ago, since which time, I had travelled on foot two hundred and fifty miles; that when I set out, I had six guineas, one of which was expended on my journey, that my name was Gordon, but that I had an American protection under the name of Keith. He said I might consider myself quite safe, although it would be prudent to take some precautions, such as altering my appearance, and not walking about much in the day time.

When we got to the house, he told the mistress, a Welsh woman, who I was: she directly

said to me, " you were here but a few minutes ago, why did you not speak English to me?" I said, I supposed that she only understood Dutch, and asked her what she took me to be; she replied, she supposed me to be a jew who could neither speak Dutch nor *any thing else.* On my asking if I could lodge with her, she replied, they had no spare bed, but told me to make myself easy on that score, as she would find a lodging for me some where or another. Mr. Gross, the mate of the Friendship, would not stay to breakfast with me, but promised to return in the course of the forenoon, and see me fixed in a comfortable lodging.

I now considered myself to be again in possession of that inestimable blessing liberty, and being amongst people who spoke English, felt quite at my ease, dismissing all the hopes and fears from which I had suffered as much during my journey as from all my bodily fatigues. I made a hearty breakfast, and then had a good wash for the first time during the last two days. I had enough to do in answering Mrs. Ebbs's questions concerning my journey; she told me of several deserters whom she had seen, but I knew none of them.

About ten o'clock, Mr. Gross returned with

the second mate of the Desdemona. It was proposed to send next door and inquire if they could lodge me; in a few minutes a young woman came in, whom I remembered to be one of those who laughed as they were passing me the day before: she also remembered me, and told Mrs. Ebbs in Dutch, that she had seen me looking at the house the day before: on this they questioned me concerning where I had passed the night, supposing I had been at some house before I came to them, but I soon cleared up this to their satisfaction, by telling them how I had passed the night. Gross told me I needed not be afraid of having to pass such another night, as he would let me have his bed on board, and sleep himself on shore, in case they should not be able to get me a bed at some English house.

Mary Doll, which was the name of the young woman in black, proposed to go to a Mrs. Jordan's and inquire if she could accommodate me: in about half an hour she returned and said, they would lodge me, but advised me to remain where I was until dark. The mate of the Desdemona called on me, in the course of the day, and they all interested themselves so much on my account, that I feel myself extremely obliged to them all, but par-

ticularly to Mr. Gross, who having been the first person I applied to, considered me as under his immediate protection. I dined with Mrs. Ebbs, and having settled with her, set out for Mrs. Jordan's with Gross, in company with Miss Doll and the second mate of the Desdemona, who waited only the arrival of Captain Doll to be married to her.

Mrs. Jordan told me, her terms were eight guilders a week for board and lodging. I agreed to them, and said I hoped it would be only for a few days, as I intended to join the first merchant vessel of any kind in which I should be able to get employed; I told her that all I had was five guineas and a watch. After tea Miss Doll went away with the two Americans.

In the course of the evening several English people came in; I made no secret of who or what I was: amongst others were several fair traders. I wished to have shipped myself with some of them, but although willing to assist me, they could not take me on board, as it is contrary to their established custom, to take any one with them with whom they are unacquainted.

19*th February.* About ten o'clock, I went to bed, and got up at eight to breakfast not feeling the smallest degree of fatigue: my foot however was very sore and gave me some pain in moving about, but I was able to rest all day.

My first concern now was, to find the speediest method of getting over to England. Mrs. Jordan told me, that she knew of a man who was going over as boatswain of a brig, and proposed sending for him to see if he could do any thing for me; I sent out for a check shirt, as the shirt I had was nearly worn out, and had been in wear a fortnight, but not being able to find a good one ready made, they bought some cloth and gave it to an English girl to make up. In the course of the forenoon John the boatswain called; he told me it was quite uncertain when they would sail, as they had been obliged to unlade their cargo, which was wheat: he added, he was sure nothing could be done with the Captain's consent, but at the same time hinted, that if I was not able to get away before he sailed, he would endeavour to secrete me on board.

In the evening, Mr. Gross called with another person, and asked me to go on

board with him, as the Supercargo wished to see me: as we went along, he told me that the person who was with him, was in the same situation as myself, having arrived yesterday afternoon from Gorcum hospital, and was now looking out for a passage to England. We had a good deal of talk together; he told me that he had been mate of a large transport which then lay up in the harbour, and had been taken about three months: when the ship was taken, he, with some others of the crew, took to one of the boats, and after beating about fifty-two hours, were driven on shore and made prisoners. On telling him in what ship I had been taken, we found ourselves almost acquaintances, having lain near each other in Oporto. He was also an old shipmate of Captain Connolly, who was chief mate of a Baltic trader where Webster was second; the ship was stranded and the Captain, one Anthony Sparrow, with the crew, took to the boat and shoved off, leaving poor Webster, who was employed aloft, to his fate, but Connolly would not leave the ship without him, and was therefore left also: they passed a most dismal night, being nearly frozen to death, and expecting the ship to part, as the sea was flying all over her. In the morning they were relieved by the boats from the shore.

When on board the Friendship, the Supercargo made some inquiries concerning the American vessels which were in Dieppe when I was there; he was a young Bostonian of the name of Hixon, and both he and the Captain behaved very friendly towards me, asking me to call on board as often as I could, and offering to do any thing in their power to serve me. I stopped to tea, and promised Webster, who remained on board for the night, to go with him to the house where his companions lodged, in the morning, in order to fix on some plan for getting away.

20*th February*. After breakfast, Webster called on me, and we went to the house where his companions were; it was kept by an English widow of the name of Brown, who told us she had sent to a man concerning our passage, who was to call in the morning, and asked what we could afford, proposing £20 each. Some consented to this, others to £15, but Webster and myself refused to give more than £10 or 12 guineas: she promised to do all she was able to procure our passage on fair terms, and told us to be there in the evening to draw out bills for our passage-money in case of agreeing to his proposal. As we were in continual fear of the police officers, every minute I passed

in the house, was in pain, for not a footstep was heard near the door, which was always secured, that did not make us all fly out of the room, some up to the trap-door, and others down to the area door. I gladly returned to my lodging, where I was without any fear of this kind. A person having promised to forward a letter to England for me, I wrote and gave him one; although I considered it at the time as probable, I should be across before he was. I spent the evening with Gross and Webster, at Mrs. Ebbs's, and it passed so quickly, that by the time we arrived at Mrs. Brown's, the skipper was gone, having offered to take the six of us for one hundred pounds, which we agreed to.

Wednesday, 21*st February*. In the forenoon I went to Mrs. Brown, and drew a set of bills for sixteen guineas for my passage; each of the others did the same; Mrs. Lambert an English woman, who was to go with us, was to pay £12. Mrs. Jordan had advised me to stipulate that they should defray all our expenses until landing in England for this sum; when I mentioned this, it was immediately agreed to, and Thursday night was fixed for our departure. I called on Mr. Hixon, who asked me to take charge of a letter, which I promised to do.

Thursday, 22nd February. Having breakfasted, I went to a money changer's to get rid of a Louis for small money, and on my way back called at Mrs. Brown's to see how things went on; here I found them all in a complete bustle: they had been sending about for me in every direction, and said I had not a moment to lose, but must set out that instant: seeing, however, that none were yet gone, although they were all ready, I went to Mrs. Jordan and settled for my lodging; my clothes and a luncheon were waiting for me: the latter I pocketed and ran back to Mrs. Brown's, from whence we set out in three divisions about eleven o'clock, and were joined outside the town by the skipper, with three other Dutchmen and two women. Every minute we expected to come to the vessel; at length we entered Schiedam, and went to an inn where we got some refreshment; a little beyond Schiedam we went into a boat, and were in hopes that our journey was at an end.

Mrs. Lambert and some others of my companions were quite tired, all excepting Webster being invalids. Having made our way through the ice with some difficulty, we landed on the island of Yeselmond; when we had walked a short distance with much fatigue to the weaker part of our

troop, the skipper said he would go forward with the two women, and any of us who could keep up, and send a sledge for Mrs. Lambert, who was able with the greatest pain to proceed but slowly: three of us went with the skipper, leaving Mrs. Lambert with Webster and the other two besides the Dutchmen. After walking about an hour and a half, we came to a village near that of Portugal, and were surprised at finding the more fatigued party already arrived, having procured a sledge for Mrs. Lambert, and travelled by a shorter and better road.

We here took boat again, and having landed on a very narrow isle, walked a few yards and embarked on board of another, which landus in half an hour at the distance of half a mile from the village of Spykeness, on our way to which place we had to pass close to six gun boats: the skipper and two women went on the top of the bank, talking together quite loud, the rest of us kept along the fields at the other side, and were told, in case any one spoke to us, to say we were Americans. We arrived safe at the village, and finding we could not be all accommodated at one inn, half the party went to another. Immediately we went in, we had coffee and tea, and set all hands to work

in getting supper ready as quickly as possible. As we were enjoying ourselves after our fatigues round a fine blazing hearth, the Commodore of the gun-boats which we had passed, came in: he was a fine smooth-faced lad of about 16 or 18 years of age. After telling some tale which appeared to be very laughable, and taking a dram, he went away. The Dutch have a proverb, saying, There was a time when tarry trowsers was made a skipper: that time I suppose is not only passed but nearly forgotten.

At ten o'clock we sat down to an excellent supper of a dozen or two dishes, and concluded it, as usual in this country, with tea and coffee. Our beds were in recesses in the wall, which is very much the custom both in Holland and France; they were very good, but if they had not been so, it would have made but little difference;—the distance we had walked, and the rough accommodations we had been used to, made any thing at all comfortable pass for a luxury.

Friday, 23*rd February*. After breakfast, two travelling waggons being ready, our companions came from the other inn: they also had fared extremely well, but several of the party felt

worse for their good supper, having been used many months, and some of them many years, to a prison regimen. The riding was very uneasy, and I attempted several times to keep up by running behind the waggon, not only to avoid the jolting but also to warm myself, as the wind was very piercing, blowing over a country which formed an entire sheet of ice and snow; but the roughness of the ground prevented me from keeping pace with them.

At noon we arrived at a farm house on the sea side, at the distance of one league from Helvoetsluys: here the skipper left us to ourselves, having ordered the people of the house to supply us with whatever we asked for, and said he would go to Helvoet, from thence cross over to Goree, where his house was, and send the vessel, in which we were to go over, for us. We dined in company with seven boatmen, two French soldiers who were billeted at the house, and the family, which consisted of the farmer, his wife, three sons, and two daughters; after dinner we had coffee; about five o'clock we had tea, and after supper, which consisted chiefly of cabbages thinly sliced and boiled in vinegar, we had coffee again.

There was but one bed for the six of us: this

was built against the wall, as is usual, and as it was not very wide, we had to lie heads and points, that is, three heads one way and three the other; so that each of us had the feet of one or two companions in his face. Mrs. Lambert and the farmer's wife we stowed away in the closet or bed adjoining ours, and the remainder of the family, with the boatmen, began to make merry as soon as we had turned in, and kept it up with hot gin and water until daylight.

Saturday, 24th February. When we arose, we found that the daughters had had no sleep, as it was their bed which we had occupied: therefore, we agreed, in case of having to remain at the house another night, to let them have their bed, and to sleep about the fire or in the loft. At eight o'clock we had tea with bread, butter, eggs, &c. and about eleven tea again, without any thing else. About noon, a French officer and about twenty soldiers, with two or three waggons, stopped at the door, and came in to get a dram and warm themselves, as it was intensely cold; when they entered we made certain that we were lost, for what could be more natural, than that an officer, on seeing half a dozen English sailors seated round a Dutchman's fire side, should arrest them? We each wished our companions

out of the room; but as the people of the house did not know there was any occasion for concealment with respect to us, it would not have been prudent to leave the room abruptly: one or two went out of the back door; and I went out at the front towards Helvoetsluys, as the soldiers were going in the opposite direction. I kept walking on pretty briskly until the intruders left the house, by which time I had walked about a mile, but on turning about, I found the wind, which was now right in my teeth, blow so very strong and cold, that it was with great difficulty I was able to get forward: the road was good, but much exposed, being on the top of a dyke; on arriving at the house quite out of breath, and half perished with the wind, they told me that no one had spoken a word to them.

When night came, some were seating themselves round the fire, and others were retiring to the loft, on which the man asked our reason for doing so: we said, it was to let his daughters have their bed: on this he began abusing his wife and daughters at a great rate, and said if they could not find beds they ought not to have taken us in. We interfered at first, but finding the dispute get very hot, and seeing that the only way of settling it would be by obeying the

old man, we stowed ourselves away as we had done the last night. The daughters abused the old man as much as he did them, which surprised us much, until they informed us he was only their father-in-law.

Sunday, 25th February. During the morning we were anxiously watching a vessel which was on her way across from the island of Goree : about ten o'clock we were much pleased to find we were to embark on board of her for England ; the wind being then contrary, we were to cross over to the island, and wait there for a fair wind. We were soon ready to embark, the only baggage being a bundle of Mrs. Lambert's ; we were not less willing, as the two last days had passed very heavily ; nor did we consider ourselves very safe, whilst living under the same roof, and eating at the same table with two French soldiers who daily went to Helvoet. We were not long in running over to the opposite shore, where we lay until it was dark, at the entrance of a canal which led to the village of Middleharnis, at the distance of a mile from us. At sunset some horses were brought, which towed us to the village : we were not allowed to shew ourselves on deck, but the pleasure of being once more afloat made up for this inconvenience,

When it became dark, we went two at a time to the skipper's house, which, although it consisted only of one room, appeared, from the cleanliness and regularity of every thing in it, rather to be kept for shew than to be in constant use. We could not tell what had become of the skipper and his mate with their fair companions, whom we expected to have met with here, but they had not been heard of since leaving us. The wife, with the assistance of some of her relations, soon prepared us a supper of hot milk with sugar, cinnamon, and other spices. About nine o'clock, we went with Keys, the skipper's brother, to the inn where beds had already been bespoken for us; when we came to the door, he wished us good night, and walked away. We were surprised at this, but went in, and having called for something to drink, intended to retire at once: the other guests, however, having finished setting down their names, and giving an account of where they came from, where they were going to, and how long they intended to remain in that place, &c. &c. we were desired to set down the same particulars: this embarrassed us greatly, but we complied with as good a grace as we could, and wrote down for Webster—Web mate, for myself—Keith 2nd mate, and for the other four, false names, belonging to different ports in America. When

this was over, we were alarmed at finding it was necessary to go with it to the Burgomaster. Those whose names were on the list before ours, having confirmed the account they gave of themselves by their passports, we were called on for the same documents: we said, they were with the skipper at Helvoetsluys, and represented ourselves as Americans who had been wrecked, and were now on our way to Flushing, at which place we heard there were several American vessels. He did not appear to believe our tale, although he neither troubled us with questions, nor spoke angrily; a young man going out with a lanthorn, the whisper passed amongst us that he was gone for the guard: we knew they had but five soldiers in the place, but fearing these would bring constables with them, we did not think ourselves secure.

We scarcely knew whether to remain or run away. I kept close to the door and watched my companions' looks and motions as narrowly as possible, well knowing that if any one went away, the only security for the others would be in following immediately. The young man who went out, returned in about a quarter of an hour, and we were soon after told to go to the inn, but that we must return at eight o'clock

the next morning; even this short respite encouraged us not a little: as we went towards the inn, one of the lodgers told us that the Burgomaster thought we were Englishmen; we endeavoured to persuade him that was impossible. On arriving at the inn, we immediately went to bed.

Monday, 26th February.—Webster and I slept together, and got up at a very early hour, quite tired of lying without sleep, which the thoughts of what eight o'clock would bring to pass had quite deprived us of, although not a word had passed between us on the subject until now, each being unwilling to appear more apprehensive of danger than the other; but, whilst dressing, having mutually confessed our fears, and owned that the more we had reflected on it, the less able we were to determine on what step it would be best to take, we went into the room where our companions slept, and asked what they thought about it: all agreed in thinking it was most probable we should be arrested, but not being able to get away, it was settled to go exactly at the time fixed on, and confirm all that we had said last night; we also made up a regular story, fixing all the particulars concerning which it was most likely we should be questioned, as follows:—We sailed from Bos-

ton the 2d of November, on board of the brig Young Hector, Capt. John Brown Smith, bound to Riga, with a cargo of cotton, coffee, sugar, &c. and had been wrecked about eight o'clock in the morning of 5th December, on Heligoland, where we got on shore in the boat, without saving any thing belonging to us, remained there about six weeks; the Captain and two men went to England, but the remainder of us having lost our protections, preferred coming to Holland on board of a fishing vessel, hoping to meet with some American vessels in which we should be able to get employment.

We anxiously expected eight o'clock—it wanted only a few minutes when Keys came in, whom we were rejoiced to see, and told him of the danger which threatened us, asking, what was to be done: he directly laughed at our apprehensions, and told us not to go, saying, it was nothing: the careless manner in which he spoke of our apprehensions gave us great ease, as we knew they were interested in our safety by the expences they had already incurred on our account.

After breakfast I went and took a walk about the village with some of the people belonging to our sloop. As we were in the common sitting

room of the inn, every one who came in saw us; most of the men of the village had frequently been in England, and many of the women and children spoke a little English. One man who came in, asked me what part we intended to land at; I told him Flushing; on which he said, "oh, you need not be afraid of me, it is only fourteen days since I left Harwich. Do you go to Harwich, or Gravesend, or Yarmouth, or Dover?" I told him, I was not sure which. He asked me several other things, but finding that I cared not to trust him, he asked me to walk to his house: I did so, and when we came there, he pointed out to me many things about it which were English; he also shewed me an English license, which completely removed all my doubts concerning him, and I answered his enquiries as well as I was able. Two or three young women came in to drink coffee with his vrow, who entertained us with gingerbread and sugared bread and butter; afterwards, the skipper shewed me a letter addressed to a mercantile house in London, and asked me to take charge of it: I promised to do so; and he, assuring me if it was in his power to render me any service he would do it with pleasure, invited me to call on him whenever I passed near the house. I was extremely glad to have made such an acquaintance, as I purposed taking refuge with him, in case the Burgomaster should

be likely to trouble us. The day passed without hearing any news of the skipper, or receiving trouble from any one. Webster and I went about the country, and through the village with Dutchmen who behaved very well to us: the others of our party seldom quitted the fire side, as they were invalids.

Tuesday, 27th February.—After breakfast, I took a walk with two or three young Dutchmen to Sommelsdyke, a neat village at the distance of three miles from Middleharnis, with which place it communicates by means of a canal. Whilst walking about the village, we met the Burgomaster of Middleharnis, with two other magistrates: we bowed to them, which they returned, and passed without taking any further notice. Being returned to the inn, I found our skipper had arrived, and he soon sent word by Webster that he wished his arrival to be kept secret, but it was too late, as the people of the inn had heard of it, and said, we should now be able to shew the Burgomaster our passports; this renewed our perplexity. In the course of the afternoon, the skipper sent his brother Keys to tell us we were to go on board that night, as the Burgomaster had said, he should be obliged to arrest us if we were in the village the next morning. I told the man whose letter I

was to take charge of, that he had better give it to me at once: he said he would, and went home for it, but did not return. When it became dark, we went on board, and were towed down the canal, from whence we immediately made sail.

Wednesday, 28th February. — We continued working about until day-light, at which time the flood-tide making, they ran her on the mud, and made fast to the piles, intending to land us at high water, and wait for a fair wind. Helvoetsluys was about twelve miles to the N. E. of us, so that we considered ourselves clear of all danger. In the afternoon, the people of the vessel being all below, playing at cards, I was walking the deck alone, and observed two fishing schuyts come in from sea: when they were abreast of Helvoet, which was in a very short time, as they had a fine fresh gale, a boat went on board of them, and, having remained a few minutes, left them and pulled towards Goree, as though they intended to land; but finding they passed the point, and were pulling towards us, I told the Dutchmen of it, and asked them to see if it was a man-of-war's boat. As soon as they saw her, they became so frightened, they could not tell us what to do; they first told us to hide ourselves, and

then, before we were all hid, said, that would not do, but we must all sit down, and say that we were Americans going to Flushing. In a few minutes the boat hoisted a Dutch flag, with the words 'convoy en licence' in it, and then boarded us: there were a surveyor, coxswain, and six men in her, all unarmed. Before they reached us, each of us had got an axe, an iron bolt, a large knife, or some such weapon, and placed it at hand, in case we should find it necessary to make any resistance. They examined the well and every place about the deck for smuggled goods, and, on going below for the same purpose, asked, who we were: they said, we were only a few American sailors going to join a ship at Flushing. I now went on deck with another or two, to hear what the surveyor thought of us: he asked the skipper for his licence to carry us: he had none; neither had he permission to leave the harbour, without which, even fishing boats are not allowed to put to sea. He asked for our passports, and I shewed mine, which appeared to satisfy him, and he was going away; but Webster said he heard one of the boat's crew, who was an Irishman, tell him, he was sure we were English: this greatly displeased two of our comrades who were Irish; they asked how Webster came to know it was not an Englishman or American:

"oh! but he is a bad fellow," said they, "so he must be an Irishman." Whilst we remained together they never forgave this, but would frequently abuse that rascally Irishman. The surveyor asked the skipper some more questions, and, at length, said, he must carry the vessel to Helvoetsluys. We determined not to go, and directly the skipper came below, shewed him the arms we had prepared, and said, we would drive the rascals overboard; but he immediately begged us not to do any thing of the kind, as if we even did get away safe, neither himself, nor any one belonging to the vessel, would ever be able to return to their homes: he said also, that it would detain us only a day or two, which would be of no consequence, as there was no appearance of a fair wind at present, and that all they wanted was, to frighten him out of some money, for they had asked him twice if he had any on board. We told him, if a few hundred guilders would content them, to give it, and we would repay him, as we did not like the thoughts of trusting ourselves in a place occupied by French troops. We felt the justice of his first reason, and therefore agreed not to use any violence. The vessel being afloat, they made sail, and stood towards Helvoet; when near the entrance of the harbour, we were all sent below, and a midshipman of the guard ship

boarded us and made minutes of our answers. we saw that he supposed us to be English. Before he left the vessel, we were alongside of the quay, and a French military officer with mustachios about six inches long, came on board, and enquired where we were going to, and what countrymen we were. On our replying that we were Americans, he called to those on deck and said, "no, no, these are not Englishmen, they are all Americans," and then pretending to believe all that we said, and to be our friend, he asked several questions, particularly of Madam, but, from his double-faced appearance, we merely gave direct answers. When he was going, he said, "never mind, you will be sent away again to-morrow." We expected to be searched immediately for papers, and the skipper, who had given several letters for England, together with a copy of our bills, to Mrs. Lambert, told her to slip them down between the timbers of the vessel, which she did. I was anxious to get rid of my map, as I intended, at any rate, to endeavour to remain with the party, imprisonment in Holland appearing happiness, compared with being returned to Cambrai, from whence it was more than probable I should be sent to Bitche: for this purpose I tore several pieces off, some of which I chewed, and gave other pieces to my companions

to get rid of in the same manner; one of them asked for all I had of it, saying, he would soon finish it: on my giving it to him, he clapped it between two pieces of the turf which composed the fire: the smoke it created alarmed us, and not without cause, for some of those who were on deck began snuffing about, and said, they are burning papers below, on which the midshipman jumped down, but was too late to see any of the ashes; and we told him the smoke was occasioned by turning the turf.

The vessel being secured to the quay, one of the custom-house people was left on board, and a sentry placed over us, with orders not to allow any person either to come on board, or to go ashore. The skipper informed us that the officer with long mustachios was commandant of the French troops, and, that on coming on deck, he said we were English spies. Mrs. Lambert was allowed to lodge on shore, but being insulted at every house at which she inquired for lodgings, by the French officers who were quartered there, she returned on board in the course of an hour or two, although we had but a very miserable hole, not above eight feet long, and ten broad, by four and a half in height, in which a turf fire was kept constantly burning, and twelve of us had no other place to put our heads in.

Thursday, 1st March.—At ten o'clock two sentries arrived to convey us by turns to the custom-house, which was only across the street. Webster went first, and returning in about half an hour, I went next. As we passed each other he said, we were wrecked the 20th January: this made me fear that, by altering the dates fixed on, my tale would differ from his; but I began calculating a new set of dates as fast as I could. On entering the room, I found an old gentleman sitting at a writing table, with an interpreter at his side; the latter held a paper in his hand, which he frequently looked at, and then at me: we bid each other good morning, and they very politely desired me to be seated, but before I had time to do so, the interpreter said to the old gentleman, in Dutch, 'this is he.' As I was then in a humour to face any thing, it rather surprised, but did not in the least confuse me; for, supposing myself to be in much less danger of detection than the others, on account of the distance I was from my prison, and confiding in my protection, I had been encouraging my companions all the morning, shewing them at times, the manner in which I intended to go in, and repeating several saucy questions, which I would put to the magistrates, and impertinent answers which I would make to their enquiries, to make them

see how little I cared, and make them believe me to be an independent American, beyond the reach of their authority. The magistrate had before him a paper with twenty-eight questions, and Webster's answers; by means of the interpreter, he proceeded to put the same questions to me, and wrote my answers on another sheet. When I replied to the first, that my name was John Keith, the interpreter said, "I think not;" I replied, "it is;" and he said, "is not your name Gordon?" On my denying it, he said, "I think "it is, you had better own to it at once."

"Where do you belong to?"

"To Brunswick, in America."

"Have you any papers?"

"I have my regular protection."

"Let me see it?"

I produced it, and was glad of the chance it offered me of getting a peep at the paper he held; I saw enough only to convince me it was the description of two deserters from a French prison, and one of the names, I fancied, was Gordon: the other I desired ardently to make

out, in the hope of its being poor Capeland. Having compared the two descriptions together, and found the American and the French one to agree, as to height, complexion, &c. he said, more positively, "I think your name is Gordon, Luke Gordon, is it not?" On this the old gentleman said to him, in Dutch, it cannot be he, as he has his papers, at which the interpreter smiled, saying it was nothing at all, and continued pressing me to confess my name at once, adding, it would be better for me; but I, being tired of the subject, interrupted him, and asked very hastily, "confess! what? If you don't believe me, ask my comrades what my name is, they will tell you." He then asked if I did not come from France: I said I did not.

"Were you never in France?"

"Never."

"Were you ever in England?"

"No, but I have been in Ireland."

He then proceeded with the other questions, answers to all of which were quite ready, having been fixed on before: the dates only were found to differ three or four days from Webster's;

but, I said, as it was merely from memory, I could not be positive of the exactness of any, excepting the day of our being wrecked, which was too remarkable to be easily forgotten.

The interpreter frequently looked very stedfastly at me, and then referred to the description. I endeavoured to appear quite unconcerned, and, I believe, succeeded pretty well; from having repeated my tale so often, I frequently imagined myself to be the person I pretended: frequently, when on my journey, questions were put to me, which I have answered without remembering that I was only an impostor.

Having answered the twenty-eight questions, he said, "is it all true?" I replied, that it was. He then asked, "will you swear to it?" Supposing him to be about to administer an oath, I stammered; there was not an instant of time for thought, but an hundred flew across my imagination: Could I perjure myself? Could I betray my companions? Could I have the face to acknowledge that all I had been saying during the last hour was falsehood? Would they consider it as an apology, if I said, they were white lies which did hurt to nobody? What a fool I thought myself for telling the first! What a

coward for denying my name, country, and religion for any one!

Thinking that I had not understood him, he said, "if it is required, you can give your oath that this is all true?" "Certainly," I said, very glad to be relieved from my perplexity. I endeavoured to regain my protection, but they would not return it, saying, it would be sent to Amsterdam, together with other papers relating to us. As I returned on board, Phillips came on shore; in passing, I said, "remember my name is John Keith,—think of Admiral Keith." Having told my companions that I was discovered, and expected to be ordered away to my old quarters at Cambrai, they supposed me to be joking, but assuring them that I was not, they were quite surprized and alarmed for their own safety, not doubting that their descriptions would be found, as mine had arrived from so great a distance. I told them frequently, in case of being asked my name, to say it was John Keith: this caution was necessary, as I had always gone by my own name. Phillips being returned, said, they had not asked him my name, but if they had, he could not have informed them rightly. The person who was examined next, was asked, and told them John Keith. Mrs. Lambert was examined in the afternoon, and behaved very

well, in confirming, as well as she could, all that we had said about being on our way towards Flushing.

Friday, 2d March.—We still remained close prisoners on board the schuyt, and expected to be so until an answer was received from Amsterdam. Webster and I proposed to each other all the methods we could think of for escaping, but the town being fortified and garrisoned by 800 French troops, the only one which gave the least chance of success, was, to take a boat from amongst several which lay close to us, and dropping down the harbour, haul her over the boom which closed the entrance: knowing that the Dutch and French sentries seldom load their muskets, we did not apprehend any danger from the guard ships close to which we should have to pass. On enquiring of the people of our vessel, how the boom was secured, and whether it was flat or round, they said, it was chained to two posts, in a manner which allowed it to rise and fall with the tide, and that every side was stuck full of iron spikes, about two feet long; this information quite cured us of scheming for the present.

I considered my situation so desperate that I

said, if any one would enter in company with me, I would enter for a privateer; the only one in the harbour lay astern of us, and Phillips and myself applied to the person who was in charge of her to ship us, but he said, they did not want any hands, as she would not be fitted out for some weeks. One resource only remained, which was, to enter for the gun-boats; the chance of being in actual service on board of them was much less than in a privateer, but as it would have been extremely difficult to escape from them, neither of us gave it a thought.

An Englishman came alongside the vessel, and telling us that he belonged to the gun-boats, advised us to write to the American consul at Rotterdam, whose direction he gave us; he added, that having a protection, and the time being nearly expired for which he had shipped, he was in the hope of soon being discharged. Having talked over his advice of writing to the consul, it was agreed to do so, as it could be productive of no harm, and would serve to talk to the magistrates about. We recounted the same dismal tale which we had hitherto made use of, and requested him to interfere in our behalf, secretly wishing, at the same time, that he would not give himself any trouble about us, knowing that he would readily discover us to be impostors.

Saturday, 3d March.—About eight o'clock, the commandant came to the quay with several officers and soldiers; a serjeant and six men were ordered on board to take charge of us to Dort, at which place we were to be examined by the general: two days allowance of bread and cheese was put on board for us, and they were ordered not to allow more than one prisoner to come on deck at a time. The people belonging to the vessel were to work her under the direction of a pilot, for which they were to have liberty to go ashore at pleasure. Our situation was now truly uncomfortable, twenty of us being on board, the greater part of whom were obliged to remain day and night in a small smoky cabin. At ten we got under weigh, and found the order which kept us below to be strictly executed. At four o'clock, the tide being down, we stopped at a custom-house station: here Mrs. Lambert, with the skipper and two or three of the soldiers, went ashore to tea; those who remained on board, had for supper, a large dish of paste, which we relished very well with treacle and butter, and it was considered by the Dutchmen to be a treat, burgou, that is, oatmeal porridge, having been our usual supper, and potatoes our dinner; we used also to have coffee with bread and butter twice a day. The French soldiers' rations consisting only of bread

and cheese, we made them partake of whatever we had: none of us pretended to understand a word of French, therefore they talked together without any restraint. I found by their discourse, that we were to be tried on suspicion of being spies in the service of England. Those who had been on shore, returned about eight o'clock, and in the course of the night we got under weigh.

Sunday, 4th March. At six in the morning, we arrived along-side of the wharf at Dort, and again had liberty to be on deck at pleasure. As a number of people were sauntering about, we soon became the centre of attraction to the idlers, several of whom spoke very good English: amongst others one, who appeared to be a respectable merchant, having inquired concerning our situation, informed us there was a vice-consul in the place, whom he advised us to send for: we immediately drew up a letter in the same terms as that which we had sent to the Consul at Rotterdam, and gave it to this person who promised to forward it immediately.

At ten o'clock, the General with several other officers came to us, and asked a few questions: he was not out of sight when the

Consul arrived, whom we were glad to find to be Dutchman: having given him a slight sketch of our ill treatment, we hurried him away after the General, whom he overtook, and conversed with for some time, but on returning, said, it was not in the General's power to release us, as we were on our way to the head quarters at Bois-le-Duc. The Consul could not do any thing for us, but said, if we called there on our return, he would see that we were properly furnished with good passports, and get us protections from the Consul at Amsterdam. At noon, the guard was relieved by another of equal force, who were to proceed with us to head quarters; our voyage was to be renewed at daylight next morning. In the afternoon, the skipper came on board; and having taken every thing out of his clothes-bag, put on all those that were worth carrying. We said to him, "you are going to run away," but he, quite flurried, replied, "oh no, I not go, indeed, I not go." We told him that we knew he was, and wished him success, base a trick as it was to leave us in the lurch, who came here only on his account, and were telling lies by the score in the hope of saving the vessel for him, as we were quite certain of being sent to prison. Keys came soon after and did the same: we asked him if they were not going to run away:

he said, yes, they were, but not now; and told us it was their intention to run the vessel aground on her passage up the river, and thus give all hands a fair start. We replied, that would be acting like men, but knowing they had no such intention, told him, they did quite right to take care of themselves, but that we thought his brother-in-law, the skipper, was a stupid fellow, fit only to go a-fishing all his days.

The others who belonged to the vessel, soon came on the same errand; but the signal had been already made to plunder, and their tobacco, warm-stockings, &c. were already disposed of. We could not help feeling for some of the losers, as one was a good natured deaf old man, who frequently amused us with his remarks on England, and the other was an honest orphan lad. It became a droll sight, to observe the manner in which our companions were rigged, with the fishermen's clothes over their own; some marked frying-pans, blankets, pillows, &c. which they intended carrying to prison with them; Webster and Phillips contented themselves with getting a few things they were in want of, such as shoes and stockings: as my clothes were better than any of those which were going about, the only prizes which I made, were the card of the compass, and a

spoon, both of which I knew to be useful articles in a prison, where we soon expected to be. As soon as we found the vessel was abandoned by her crew, the sea-stock of pork was added to our dinner, and being determined to leave the vessel as bare as possible, the coffee was scarcely off the fire, before a mess of paste was ready to succeed it. Having plenty of good Schiedam gin on board, the evening did not pass away drily; some amongst us would have been drunk greater part of the time we were together, had it not been for Webster, who alone was able to keep up the appearance of decency; two of the party being of his crew, and the others would have been unable to oppose him in case it had come to extremes. I remained on deck until midnight, thinking I ought to get overboard and have a swim for it, which, from the darkness of the night, I could have done without much risk of being discovered, but the coldness of the weather, the breadth of the river, the rapidity of the stream, and more than all, the want of a companion to advise with, prevented me.

Monday, 5th March. At daylight a pilot came on board; but after waiting some time, and finding that the people of the vessel did not make their appearance, he concluded that

they had deserted and went to make his report. I now indulged hopes of being detained here another night, and proposed to Webster that we should be off together, which he readily agreed to, and said, he would have gone last night had he seen an opportunity. About eleven o'clock the pilot came down, to our great disappointment, with two or three other boatmen, and we proceeded up the river. Tea, coffee, and gin alone were in demand this morning, the effects of last night's surfeit not being over, but the lost appetites returning in the afternoon, some potatoes were got ready.

About four o'clock, the wind being too light to admit of our proceeding any further against the stream, which was pretty strong, they shoved the vessel along the left side of the river by means of poles, and entered a small creek for the night: when I went on deck, which we were still allowed to do, but only one at a time, I was quite rejoiced to find that we were in such an excellent place for escaping; being in the midst of the gardens of a village with one side of the vessel touching the shore, and on the other just room for a boat to pass. I took particular notice of the way the soldiers turned to go into the village. Having satisfied my eyes with this delightful sight, which pro-

mised so fair for us, I went down and talked with the others about getting away: it was the chief object of each person's thoughts, but appeared difficult to be accomplished by all: the most likely means we could devise for giving a chance to the whole party, was to make the soldiers drunk. We had not been here an hour, before the vessel was mobbed by a party of Dutchmen, on account of one soldier having entered a house and taken away some pocket-handkerchiefs and other clothes. As there were not any troops in the village, we hoped they would proceed to extremities, and thus give us a chance of being off in a scuffle; but on receiving back the stolen goods they retired: the serjeant and one of the soldiers were very angry with the robber, and appeared very much hurt at the disgrace such actions would bring on the regiment.

We prepared a mess of porridge, and passed the glass about pretty briskly: the soldiers had been gorged with the burgou, and this swimming with butter and treacle, gave them a fresh relish for the gin, with which considering all things, they had hitherto been pretty moderate. Our meat was scarcely finished before most of the soldiers were asleep in their seats, and two or three of them soon became very sick.

We put the kettle on, and continued to pass the glass about and sing songs, not in the most gentle strain, in order to drown the noise which Webster made in tearing down a partition, which we pretended was for want of other fuel. Meeting with some obstruction, he was obliged to go on deck in order to clear it: as the sentry was sitting under the hatch it was necessary to awaken him, on which he went up, and followed close behind. Having waited a few minutes, and not hearing him at work, Sparks went up, and returning in a few minutes, said that Webster was off: this rather alarmed me, but to keep things quiet, I said he was only hid in the sail, so that, when the hole was completed, another person might be on deck and assist him in securing the sentry, without noise, whilst the others of us came up the hatchway, and crept through the hole: this was part of the plan we had formed, but wishing to make sure that it was right so far, I went up and felt about the sail, but nobody was there. I continued walking to and fro the deck, pretending to be very sick, in the hope that the sentry would be tired of waiting in the cold. In about a quarter of an hour, I heard some person moving about amongst the boats in the creek, and soon after, a boat with one man in it shoved past us, touching the vessel, as there was scarcely room

for her. I strongly suspected it to be Webster, but the night was so dark I could not distinguish any thing about him to confirm my suspicion, although he was not two yards distant from me. The sentry also looked very attentively at the boat; I hem'd several times, and called "Jem," but he continued to shove past without making the slightest signal. I could have jumped in with ease and have been out of reach of the sentry, as I well knew his musket was not loaded, but thought that if he turned out to be a Dutchman, I should not only get into disgrace, but also be the occasion of making the soldiers more vigilant. Finding that the sentry was not inclined to leave me on deck alone, but was seating himself on a sail, I went below and informed my comrades that Webster was off, and I was almost certain that he had shoved past me in a boat. There was a terrible mess below with the sick soldiers: one or two of our own party also were quite surfeited.

The sentry came down in a few minutes and was putting on the hatch, when I jumped up, and putting my hand to my mouth as though I was just taken sick, went up. He did not follow, but stood with his head above the deck, and I sat down on the side of the ship nearest the shore, hiccuping and groaning enough for a very

sick person. I asked for a cup of warm water, which being given to me, a Swedish lad came up, and asked me how I was: I went a little way forward, when, being out of sight of the sentry, he got over the side; between my groans I said a word or two to persuade him not to go yet, as I was very sorry to leave Phillips behind, but being inspired with Schiedam courage, he continued to go. One of his feet being already on the land, it was time for me to be off, although the sentry's eyes were not two yards distant from me. I lifted my feet over, and was disengaged from the vessel before the Swede, who got over where the vessel's side was at a little distance from the shore. I took a few long strides very gently, and then trotted up the garden, my heart flying about much quicker than my legs. Near the house was a large white gate, which led into the street; as I opened this, I saw some person was opening the door of the house. Being now on the high road, I turned to the left, and walked the distance of a mile very fast, when meeting with a watchman I got my knife ready to defend myself with, and asked if I was in the right road for Rotterdam; he said, I was: he was an old man, and appeared to be surprised at my travelling so late, but I gave him no time to make inquiries.

I now considered myself to be out of reach of the guard, as I knew few of them would be able to keep up with me at walking a long distance, as they were incumbered with arms, &c. I supposed, however, that a dispatch would be sent at daylight to Dort, and another to Rotterdam, cautioning the police and military to look out for us. I therefore was anxious to arrive before noon, knowing intelligence could not be received before that time.

Tuesday, 6th March. I continued walking very fast, and at one in the morning found myself opposite to Dort: as there was a turning to the river with a hand post, I supposed it pointed out the road to Rotterdam, and therefore went that way, but finding that it led only to the Dort ferry, I had to return, and continued my journey through the village of Papendrecht. I had scarcely passed half a dozen houses, when a sentry, being awakened I suppose by my footsteps, called out, half asleep and half awake, "Qui vit?" I said, "good nacht Mynheer," and continued walking on. Surprized and perplexed as I was at this interruption from a French sentry when I so little expected it, I was thinking in what manner it would be possible to avoid passing through the neighbouring villages, when suddenly another

sentry quitting his box, came out into the road, and as I approached, challenged me with, " Qui vit?" when I came up to him, I answered as I had done before, and continued walking on: having got a few steps from him, he said something which I did not understand, and therefore paid no attention to it; he called after me, but being at the distance of some yards, I considered myself as clear of him, if there was no other sentry to stop me.

I was very glad to find myself clear of the village, and almost afraid to pass through any other, but as it was not possible to avoid them here, as I had done in France by passing round, I was obliged to keep my road, but at the same time went through them very cautiously step with as little noise as possible.

At three o'clock, I came to another finger post, and not being able to discern the letters, went in the direction it pointed, which I supposed to be to the Rotterdam ferry: finding the boats chained, and no person awake, I returned to the high road, and continued to walk on, as I thought the greater distance I got from the vessel before daylight, the safer I should be.

The morning being rainy, I met with no person until six o'clock, when on inquiring I found that I was going towards Schoonhoven, and that it was necessary for me to return to the last ferry I had passed; I immediately turned back, and putting my best foot foremost, arrived at the ferry by eight o'clock: whilst the boat was getting ready, I washed myself, and ate a slice of bread and butter; the master of the house asked me several civil questions, and abused the French for making things dear. He inquired if I was an Englishman, I believe without any bad intention, but not wishing to put unnecessary confidence in any one, I said, I belonged to the American Brig, Friendship, which was now at Rotterdam, and that I was returning to her after spending a few days with a friend at Schoonhoven, and inquired if the French had yet taken possession of Rotterdam, as it was an event daily expected when I left that place. Finding they had not, I considered myself perfectly safe. The boat being ready, we crossed the largest branch of the rapid Rhine, which here bears the name of den Lek.

The day was very rainy, and I arrived at Rotterdam completely soaked and bespatter-

ed with mud, between the hours of ten and eleven, having walked a distance of forty-eight miles, during the last thirteen hours. The first house I went to, was Mrs. Ebbs's, who was much surprised to see me return, when she supposed me to be safe in England. As my former lodgings were too dear for the present state of my finances, I resolved to accept of a proposal which had been made of accommodating me at Mrs. Doll's for eight guilders a week, but which it was not worth while shifting for, as my former stay had been so short. Having rested myself a little, I went there,—it was the next door; the family consisted of Mr. Doll, who was a clerk in a merchant's house, but at this time unable to attend, being in a decline,—his wife and sister, who were the young lasses in black that stopped to laugh at my uncouth appearance the first day of my entering Rotterdam; being very intimate with them afterwards, we used often to laugh it over; they said they took me to be some boor, who having come to market was gaping at the picture over the door. The brother and sister spoke English as well as they did Dutch, their mother, who had been dead only a few weeks, having been a native of Ireland. There are mauy families in Rotterdam, in which English is as much spoken as any other language. On telling

my errand, they said, the room was let to Captain Smith of the Desdemona, but that they would gladly send him away, as he was a very unpleasant guest; this I refused, saying, it was possible I should remain there only a few days.

Mr. Doll insisted on my staying to dinner, and when I left them in the afternoon, invited me to call whenever I had a spare hour, as he said he was frequently lonely in the afternoon. During my stay I took advantage of his invitation, and usually spent three or four evenings of every week with him very pleasantly: he gave me a good deal of information concerning Holland, which I could not otherwise have received. On leaving them, I went to my former lodgings at Mrs. Jordan's, who appeared fearful that her house would be searched for me, and said, she would endeavour to get a lodging for me on the morrow at another English house; but, in the course of the evening, on her asking if I had been obliged to part with my watch, I knew the source of her fears, which I soon quieted, by telling her I had it yet, together with two guineas and a louis d'or, not having been at any expense since leaving her.

Wednesday, 7th March.—I found myself so very stiff that I breakfasted in bed, and do not

know when I should have got up; but at noon they told me a Captain was below, who wished to speak with me; not being able to guess who it could be, I hurried down to see. He asked me if I had any prospect of getting a passage; I said it was not my intention to try for one, as I wished to ship myself on board of some neutral vessel; he said, he would ship me for his vessel, if I was not afraid of standing muster at the town house. I readily accepted of his offer, and told him my name, &c.

Having dined, I walked down to Mr. Brown's, and was very glad to meet with Webster, who had arrived only a very short time, and was extremely fatigued. I found it was he who had passed me in the boat, and, he said, that having waited some time, in the hope I would come to him, he shoved off without any oars, having only a long pole in the boat: about ten o'clock he went alongside of a schuyt, and hearing the people on board snoring, secured the hatch and took a pair of oars; with these he got on so well, as to arrive abreast of Dort by midnight, when he lost his way amongst the various branches of rivers which there join. In the morning he landed at a town, but finding it to be occupied by French troops, took to his boat again, and after pulling some distance,

landed at the opposite side at noon: on enquiring, he found he was five leagues from Rotterdam, and wishing to arrive before night, he walked as fast as he could until dusk, when, after crossing a ferry, he enquired the distance, and was astonished to find himself ten leagues from Rotterdam; he re-crossed the ferry, and after walking a short distance, being extremely fatigued, went into a public house and asked them to allow him to pass the night in a barn; having received permission, he went in, and soon fell asleep, but was awaked about nine o'clock by the landlord, who brought him a large bason of milk porridge, which he refused to take, although he was very hungry, having fasted twenty-four hours, expecting they would demand payment for it, and he was not sure that the few pence he had, would be sufficient to pay the ferries: at day-light he renewed his journey, and arrived without further accident.

The Swede who had arrived in the morning, said, that on leaving the vessel, he was at a loss which path to pursue, but having gained the high road, by passing through the white gate, he hid himself in a bundle of reeds, where he slept until midnight, when, rising refreshed and sober, he set out for Rotterdam: day was just breaking when he arrived at Papendrecht, the

village in which I had been frightened. As he passed along, two gens d'armes laid hold of him, and inquired where he was going? He told them, in Dutch, that he was come from a schuyt, which he pointed to, and was going for milk.—A day or two after his arrival here, having obtained employment on board of a neutral vessel, bound to Antwerp, I gave him a note to forward to Capeland. I told Webster who had shipped me, and advised him to try for a berth; he said, that he had already seen the Captain, and expected to go with him also.

Saturday, 10th March.—Webster and I joined the vessel, expecting to take on board a cargo on the Monday following; it was a Dutch schuyt of 40 tons, and the persons who belonged to her were, the Captain and Supercargo, both Englishmen, and Kees, a Dutch boy, who stood cook; Webster and I were to receive the same wages as were given by fair traders out of England, that is, ten guineas the trip, and twelve shillings a week.

In the course of the ensuing week, Mrs. Lambert arrived in town, and informed us, that as soon as the sentry missed us from the deck, he alarmed the serjeant and other soldiers, who,

seizing their arms, got a lanthorn, and went in search of us; but, returning without success, they became like madmen, particularly the serjeant and sentry, who tore their hair and beat themselves, crying, that they should be imprisoned for life. On their arrival at Bois-le-Duc, they were sent to the jail, and two or three days after, examined before several general officers, to whom they immediately confessed what they were on, while the prisoners were remanded back to Gorcum, from whence they had deserted, and Mrs. Lambert was provided with a passport and conveyance to Rotterdam.

In the course of the month of April, I received a letter from England, in answer to one which I had forwarded on my first arrival in Rotterdam, and frequently found means of sending a few lines: I also wrote twice to the American consul general at Amsterdam, requesting him to have my protection returned to me; but, finding it to be delayed from time to time, I waited on the consul at this place, with his answer to my letters; and, on telling him how uncertain my stay was, he furnished me with a new protection, with which I considered myself perfectly secure. Towards the latter end of April, we were agreeably surprized by the arrival of Phillips from Gorcum, from which

place he had conducted a party of half a dozen prisoners, three or four of whom, with him, found an asylum on board of our schuyt, until a passage was procured for them.

We heard afterwards that the vessel they embarked on board of was obliged, by the weather, to bear up again for Holland, after having made the English coast; but meeting with a British man-of-war brig on the Dutch coast, Phillips and his companions were impressed, and the commander paid the fishermen for their passage. One of Phillips's companions had been six years a prisoner in France, escaping from whence, he was arrested in Holland, and confined until this time at Gorcum; so that after seven years captivity, he was only tantalized with the sight of the land of liberty, and then condemned to a much severer imprisonment than that which he had left.

We were prevented from sailing fortnight after fortnight, until the beginning of May, by which time Webster became so tired of waiting, that he engaged his passage on board of a Dutch vessel without telling our Captain he had done so: but, finding our schuyt to be actually on the move at last, he intended remaining with us: the Captain, however, having been informed of

his intention by the master of the Dutch vessel, would not allow him to remain: he also questioned me about my intentions. Wishing rather to delay than expedite my arrival in England, as I had no inclination just then, to engage in a voyage to the East Indies with my cousin, of whose arrival I had heard,—I had not the temptation of Webster, whose wife depended entirely on his exertions for support; but wished, rather, that our schuyt would make a short trip to France or Norway, which was sometimes in agitation.

In a few days after this, we went down to Delftshaven, where, after remaining a few days, we took in two hundred tubs of gin, and filled the vessel up with rushes, which were piled up about six feet above the deck: the day we finished loading, I went up to town about nine o'clock, and asked the Captain for some money, which he had promised to let me have a few days before, in order to discharge my bill at Mrs. Jordan's, where I had always slept, not having bedding on board; he told me he was to have some money the next morning, and would then pay it; this I knew he would certainly do; for I never met with any person who was so exact in performing the slightest promise he made, even in joke, although from his

denying the existence of a God, a legal oath was a farce to him. Webster and I left him at Mrs. Brown's, and having taken a turn or two, took leave of each other: I was very sorry he was not going with us, instead of having to pay twenty pounds for his passage. I went to Mrs. Jordan's, and having given an order on the Captain for the amount of her bill, which was about twenty-four guilders, told her that in case the Captain did not bring me her receipt before we sailed, I would run up and pay her, as I had yet two guineas remaining. It was my intention to return to the vessel immediately, but I was persuaded to remain, in order to receive instructions from Mary Doll, who had been staying with Mrs. Jordan the last month, of what I was to say to her lover, who had sailed with the Desdemona about a month since. The Friendship had sailed in the middle of March, and we soon after heard of her being wrecked on the Goodwin: the crew were saved with the exception of the poor black cook. John, the boatswain, also sailed about the end of the same month, as mate of a small vessel, which was wrecked, and every soul perished.

At day-break I returned to the vessel, and about ten o'clock the Captain came down; the vessel was at the pier head, quite ready to

make sail, but the papers were not yet ready, which the captain said would detain us two hours longer: the interpreter not being arrived, I went towards Rotterdam to hurry him, and having got half way there, when I met with him, I determined to go on: soon after leaving him, I met with a Delftshaven lass, with whom I became acquainted, during the few days we lay here, before loading; short as our acquaintance was, it was settled that we were to be married, but we could not agree as to the time; I was for its taking place immediately, but they put it off until my return from Middleburgh, to which place it was supposed we were bound. She was walking with her mother and aunt, at the side of the dyke, I was running along on the top of it; they stopped and called to me, supposing I did not observe them: fearful of trusting myself, I shut my eyes and ears, and passed the lovely syren without taking the slightest notice of her.

I called at Mrs. Jordan's door, and found the Captain had settled with her; I then bought a couple of books. On my return to the vessel, I found that the papers having been given soon after the interpreter's arrival, I had nearly lost my passage, it being only at the intreaties of the supercargo and interpreter that the Cap-

tain consented to wait for me. The sails being already set, I cast the ropes off and jumped on board, almost sorry to leave Holland, where I had experienced many pleasures and pains, yet glad to be on the road to procure my liberty, which I did not consider as completely gained.

Sauntering about Rotterdam one day, I stopped to look at the different advertisements which were pasted up against the jail; amongst others, I saw one offering a reward for the apprehension of two English deserters from Valenciennes: the name of one was Luke Gordon, and his age, height, hair, complexion, &c. answered so exactly to mine, that I did not wonder in the least that the interpreter at Helvoetsluys supposed me to be the person described; but it certainly was a strange coincidence of circumstances, that we were namesakes, and in such similar situations at the same period, as he deserted a week after me, and I heard afterwards, escaped by the way of Holland.

We set the pilot on shore at Zerkzee, about noon, on Sunday the 13th of May, and continued our course towards Middleburgh, for which place we were cleared out; but instead of going in, stood to sea with a fine stiff breeze from the

eastward, in sight of twelve men-of-war brigs which were lying in T'Veer Gat, but they dared not follow us, as the wind was right off their own coast. Our vessel, which had always made a great deal of water, now increased her leaks, as we expected, but not so as to give us the smallest uneasiness. All night we had a very fine run, with a steady breeze, which continued during the ensuing day.

After eating my dinner, I went to have a spell at the pump, before I relieved the Captain from the helm, quite pleased that the vessel was so tight; but having tired myself, the supercargo and Kees each took a spell without being able to make her suck, which surprized me much, as it was but a short time since, they said, she was quite dry: we went below, and having lifted a plank, found there were two feet water in the hold; this made me very angry with the Dutchman, who had been telling us all day, after pumping a little, that she was quite free. Having pumped until we were all completely tired, without having gained an inch on her, we were obliged to rest ourselves, and take the consolation of abusing Kees, who, without making any answer, was overhauling the poles used for shoving the vessel along in shoal water: having found one which suited his purpose, he soon fixed

it to the pump in such a manner that it turned the labour of pumping, which before was very fatiguing, into mere play. This made peace with us effectually, and, on asking what put the contrivance into his head, he said, it was the way they used always to do when his father was skipper of the schuyt, as she was usually very leaky. In an hour or two she was quite freed, but we were obliged to keep jogging her out continually. In the evening we made Orfordness light, and stood away to the Northward, in company with a number of light colliers, all of whom had the heels of us. At eleven o'clock we saw the breakers on either side of us, and immediately afterwards struck in one fathom. The captain, who was reckoned a good pilot on this coast, would scarcely believe we were aground, so much had he mistaken our situation, although we were steering for St. Nicholas Gat light. We endeavoured to force her over the banks, as there was a fine fresh gale; but, not succeeding, had to lower the sails when the tide fell, and wait for day-light, in hopes of assistance from the shore.

Tuesday, 15th May. — At day-light, a Yarmouth boat came to us, and having ran out one of our anchors, we hove off as the tide flowed. At six o'clock we were again under sail, but

nearly half full of water, although we had kept both pumps going. By bailing and pumping, we soon gained on the leaks, on which the people who had assisted us, demanded two hundred guineas to be paid them in hand, or else, insisted on carrying us into Yarmouth: as there was not ten guineas in the vessel, and, if carried into Yarmouth, the vessel and cargo were sure to be made a prize of, and all of us imprisoned as smugglers, the Captain was obliged to tell them how we were situated, and, at the same time, said, if they would agree to let him prosecute the voyage, he would give them one half of the vessel and cargo; and, that as many as pleased, might remain on board to see fair play: this would have been very advantageous to them; but it caused a great deal of argument; three or four times they agreed to accept of it, and, as often, refused it, altering the vessel's course with their opinions: at length, it appeared to be settled, that we were to continue our voyage; but, having stood on our course some time, we had to alter it again, one man having succeeded in making the others carry her to Yarmouth, by saying, he would have no share in the transaction, as they were all running the risk of being transported for smugglers. They now put about and stood for Yarmouth; and we, having launched the

boat, went into her with whatever things were at hand; and, after a long pull, landed about eight o'clock at a small village on the coast, but were too late to have any hopes of getting to Yarmouth in time to give information at the custom-house, that the vessel we had quitted was a smuggler, which the Captain intended to have done, and, by that means, receive the informer's share. Having taken our things out of the boat, and hauled her on the beach, a man came towards us from a look-out house; the sight of him made me shudder, as the thoughts of a signal station, and the sea-side had, of late, been invariably connected with gens d'armes and such other unpleasant companions: when he inquired if we had been wrecked, I quite started with surprize at hearing him speak English. We accepted of his invitation to bring our things into his house and rest ourselves: having breakfasted, the Captain sold his beds and other things, which he had brought away, to the man of the house. I quitted an old velveteen jacket, which the Captain had given me, my fear-nothing trowsers, check shirt, and black handkerchief, for my Cambrai travelling suit, which had been laid up in ordinary since I joined the schuyt.

About noon, being a little rested, and having

arranged every thing, my companions set out for Yarmouth, which was about three miles distant; not caring to trust myself there, on account of the impress, I parted from them on my way to London, through Newmarket. On taking leave of my Captain, the poor old gentleman burst into tears; he was the most honest man I ever met with, although his life had been spent with smugglers: after having long served as a boy, and before the mast, he got a command, and was so fortunate, that he was at one time owner of several vessels, and drove his carriage; but his fortunes have changed, for, I believe, when I left him, he did not possess £20, and is now quite infirm. The schuyt was, I think he said, the forty-fifth vessel he had lost, but the first which he could not give a good account of.

About four o'clock I went into a public house and got some tea, intending to travel until ten o'clock; but on setting out again, I found myself so very sleepy, that I could not keep my eyes open: having fallen asleep several times as I walked along, and finding myself, on waking, sometimes standing still in the road, and, at other times in danger of staggering into the ditches, I went into a public house, and having got some supper went to bed, which I paid

them for at the time, intending to set out again at day-break.

Wednesday, 16th May.—I was awakened by a person coming into the room, and, on asking what they wanted, was told, they came to see if I was unwell, as it was past noon, and not hearing me stir, they had begun to think I might be dead. Having breakfasted I set out, and passed through Norwich, at which place I left my little bundle of rags to be forwarded by the waggon. As no coach was going until the next night, I would not wait for it, but continued my journey on foot until ten o'clock, stopping to have dinner and tea at different villages I passed through.

Thursday, 17th May.—I continued my march as usual until the afternoon: while I was in a public house, drinking my tea, a young man came in and inquired if he could have a bed, but, as there was none to spare, he continued his road. I was sure he was a sailor, and wished to have asked him to sit down by me, as he appeared very much fatigued, yet was afraid that he might belong to some press-gang, so suspicious was I of every person. Having set out again, I soon got sight of him, and, as he was frequently obliged to rest, on overtaking him I

ventured to enter into conversation with him, and found that he was on his way from Yarmouth to London, having just been cleared from a man-of-war, on board of which he had been impressed. We walked together until we came to Newmarket, where we parted, as he was too much fatigued to proceed any further that night, and intended to rest a day or two with a relation who lived at Cambridge; but I continued my journey until ten o'clock, when I put up at a good inn.

Friday, 18*th May*.—I was so tired that I did not rise until ten o'clock, and did not arrive in Cambridge till two, when I went to a coach office and took an outside place, which I mustered money enough to pay for by changing some Dutch and French coins. I passed the afternoon in walking about the grounds of the different colleges.

Saturday, 19*th May*.—About six o'clock we started, and after a very cold night's journey, arrived about five in the morning at Kingsland turnpike, where I got down, and having warmed and washed myself at a public house, walked across the fields to Islington, where I had the happiness to find my friends all well.

They had received the greater part of the letters I had written when in Holland, but scarcely knew what to make of them, as I never dared to sign my name, or to enter into any particulars concerning my situation, for fear of being apprehended with them about me.

I found that Capt. Connolly and Curren had arrived safe, after having been secreted a fortnight or three weeks at Boulogne.—Capt. Ferin and Marrin who deserted on the 16th December, from Cambrai, had travelled post through France, and arrived safe in Rotterdam, where they had remained several days with my landlady, Mrs. Jordan.

August, 1810.—Being on shore at Portsmouth, I met with John Sheriff, whom I had left at Cambrai a prisoner: he had been a waterman, but, one afternoon, three foreigners, whom he supposed to be Spaniards, desired him to put them on board of a transport at Spithead: after pulling from one vessel to another, until they got outside of all, they shoved him down in the bottom of the boat, and pulled away towards France: after being out three days in a thick fog, without either victuals or drink, they landed near Cherbourgh, where he was imprisoned, and after some time, sent to Cambrai,

where he had been about a year when I arrived there. I frequently used to endeavour to persuade him to get his case represented to Buonaparte, but he thought it would be useless. He now informed me, that about two months after I deserted, the Emperor visited Cambrai on his way to Breda, and inquired into the situation of the prisoners, Sheriff got a letter to be sent to the Emperor, and received his passports the next day. He said, that Capeland had been sent to Bitche for making a complaint in the name of the other prisoners, about the quality of the provisions. Welch, who was the last prisoner I had spoken to, was dead. Heyman had deserted, but had not been heard of. Captains Hepburn and Badcock, who had lived in our room, had both been dangerously ill soon after my departure.

"I will give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever. He hath redeemed me from the hand of the enemy, and gathered me from the lands of the East, and of the West, and from the North, and from the South.

"I wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way: I found no city to dwell in: hungry and thirsty, my soul fainted in me. Then I cried unto the Lord in my trouble, and he delivered me out of my distresses; and he led me forth by the right way, that I might go to a city of habitation.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

At Sea, Feb. 1811.

THE END.

H. Bryer, Printer, Bridge-Street, Blackfriars, London.

Works recently published by

JOSIAH CONDER,

No. 18, *St. Paul's Church-Yard.*

---

1. HEALTH OF LASCARS.

Observations and Instructions for the Use of Chief Officers of Country Ships and others, concerned in the preservation of the Health of Lascars. By a Country CAPTAIN. 8vo. 2s. 6d. sewed.

2. PRIVATE LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Observations on the Laws relating to Private Lunatic Asylums, and particularly on a Bill for their alteration, which passed the House of Commons in the year 1814. 8vo. 3s. 6d.

3. BISHOP GREGOIRE ON SLAVERY.

On the Slave Trade, and on the Slavery of the Blacks and of the Whites. By a Friend of Men of all Colours. Translated from the French of M. Gregoire, formerly Bishop of Blois. To which are annexed, Prefatory Observations and Notes: By the Translator. 8vo. 3s. 6d.

"If you have a right to enslave others, there may be others who have a right to enslave you."

4. DR. DEWAR'S OBSERVATIONS ON IRELAND.

Observations on the Character, Customs, and Superstitions of the Irish, and on some of the Causes which have retarded the Moral and Political Improvement of Ireland. By the Rev. DANIEL DEWAR, LL. D. 8vo. 10s. 6d.

5. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION.

Lectures on the Principles and Institutions of the Roman Catholic Religion. By the Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER A.M. crown 8vo. 8s.

6. PHILIP HENRY'S SERMONS.

Eighteen Sermons selected from the MSS. of the Rev. PHILIP HENRY, A.M. including the last Sermon which he preached. To which are added, the Funeral Sermon for Mr. Henry, by the Rev. F. TALENTS, A.M.; and the substance of a Sermon, preached on the same occasion from his Father's dying words. With a *fac simile* of a Letter from PHILIP HENRY. 8vo. 9s.

7. DR. GREGORY'S ASTRONOMICAL LESSONS.

Lessons Astronomical and Philosophical, comprising an Explanation of the most usual appearances in Nature, in a familiar manner, from established principles: interspersed with moral Reflections. By OLINTHUS GREGORY, LL. D. of the Royal Military Academy. Fifth Edition, considerably enlarged. 5s. boards.

8. MISS TAYLOR'S DISPLAY.

Display, a Tale. By JANE TAYLOR, one of the Authors of "Hymns for Infant Minds," "Original Poems," &c. with an elegant Frontispiece. 6s. boards.

9. ORIGINAL POETRY.

The Associate Minstrels: the Second Edition, including some additional Poems. Foolscap, 8vo. 6s. boards.

10. MAY'S FAMILY PRAYER BOOK.

The Family Prayer Book abridged: containing Forms of Prayer for every Day in the Week. Originally composed by the Rev. W. MAY, and abridged by the late Rev. SAMUEL PALMER. A New Edition in pocket size, with large Type. 2s. bound.

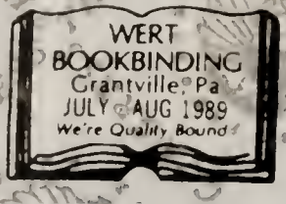
11. BUCK ON RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE.

A Treatise on Religious Experience: in which its Nature, Evidences, and Advantages are considered. By the late Rev. CHARLES BUCK. Fourth Edition, 12mo. 5s. boards.

W 95

DEC 17 1900

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 020 665 577 A